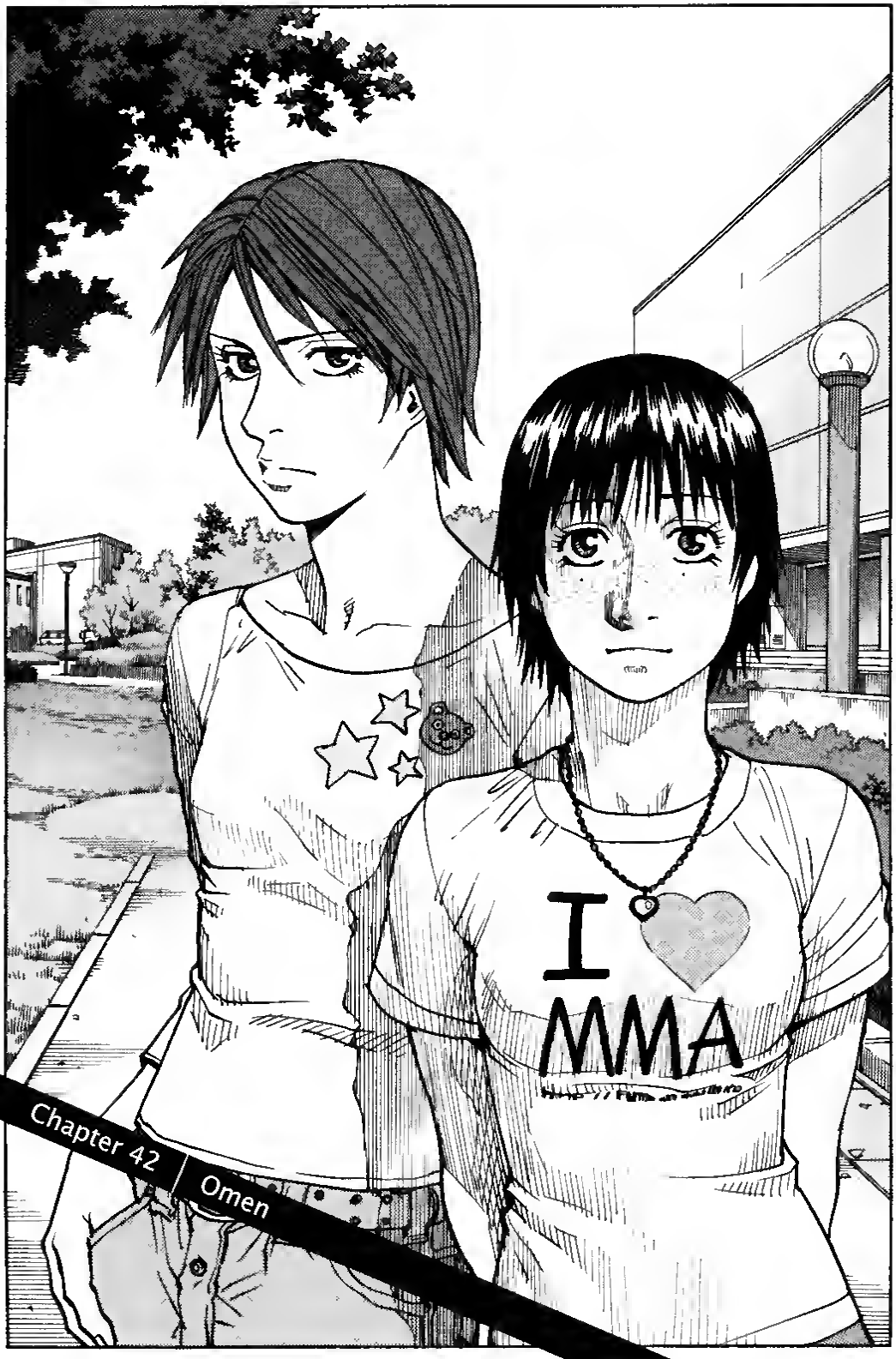
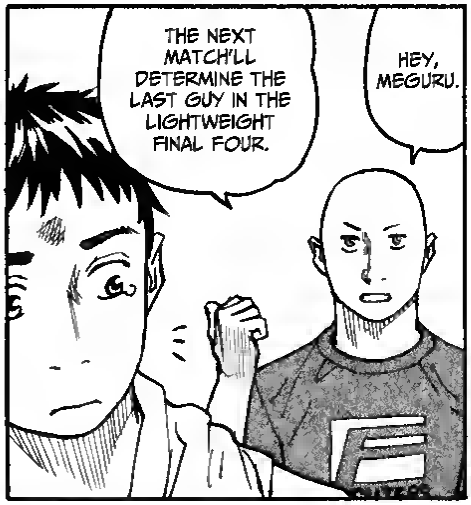
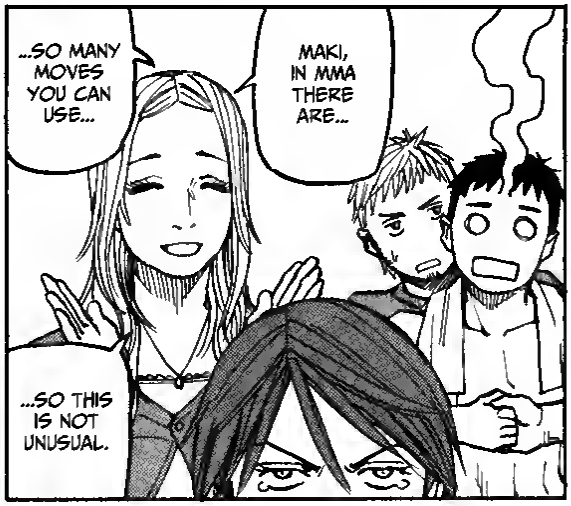


Chapter 42 | Omen

...WON'T YOU...
WHY...
NOW, NOW, MAKI.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS MAKE USE OF NEW MOVES RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
...USE A LEFT MIDDLE?
GRIND
GRIND
SO WHAT ARE YOU...
...I WON WITH A CLINCH!
PUL
YEAH! AND ANYWAY ...

WHAT THE HECK? IS SHE SULKING?
SHE'S GOT A CLASSIC YOUNGEST CHILD TEMPERAMENT...
...THAT USELESS?!
...REALLY...
...A LEFT MIDDLE...
IS...
ビュンッ
ビュンッ
ビュンッ
Difference in reach


THE NEXT MATCH'LL DETERMINE THE LAST GUY IN THE LIGHTWEIGHT FINAL FOUR.
HEY, MEGURU.


...SO MANY MOVES YOU CAN USE...
MAKI, IN MMA THERE ARE...
...SO THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL.

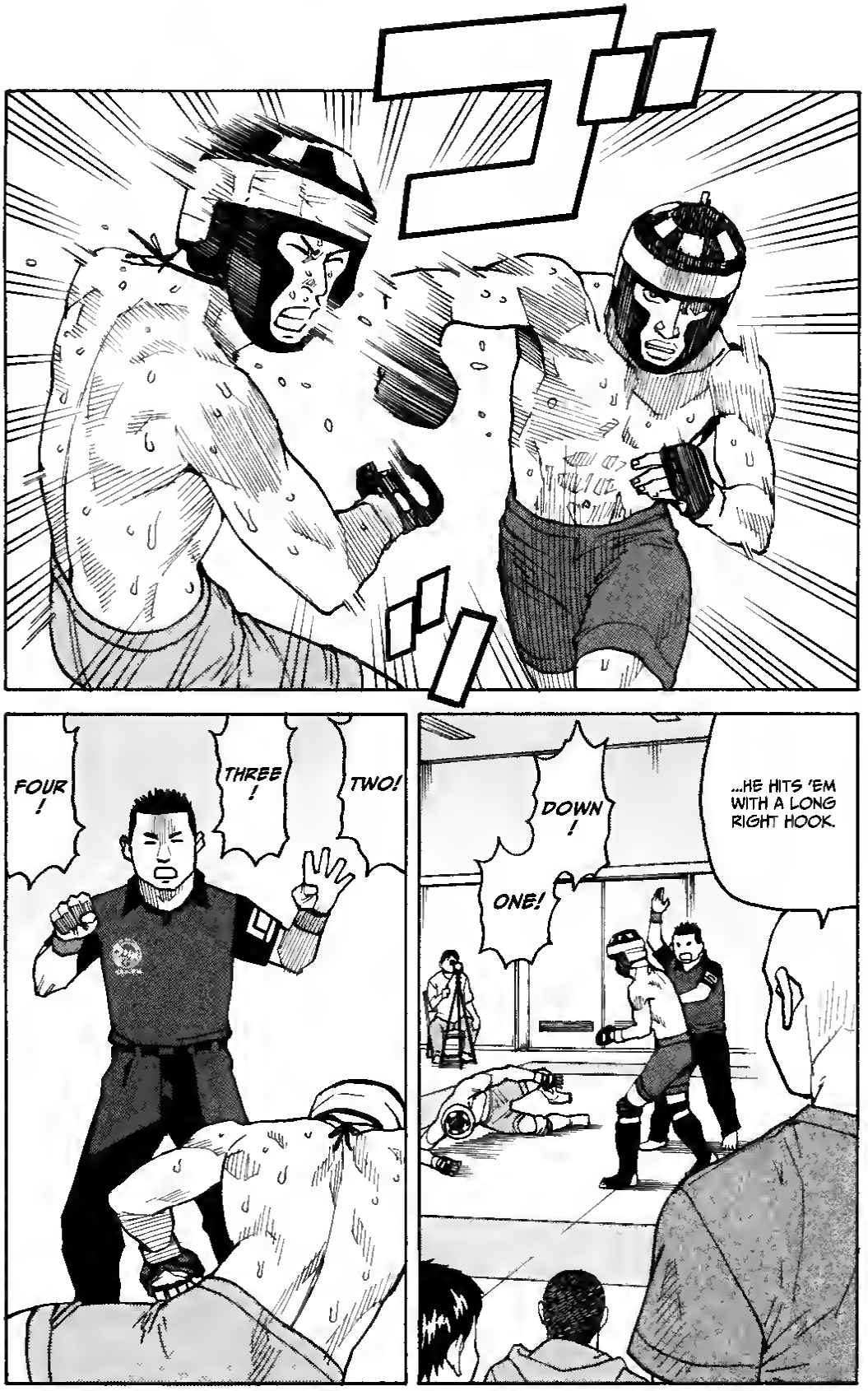
WHOEVER WINS HERE...
...WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT IN THE SEMI-FINALS.

TAKESHI KAGAYA.
THIS GUY'S THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION.

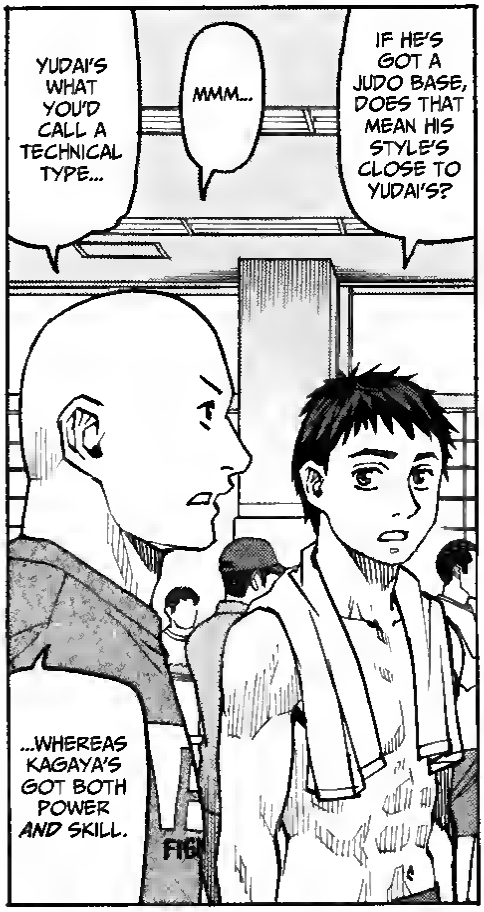
HE DID JUDO IN HIGH SCHOOL AND PLACED THIRD IN THE REGIONALS.
HEIGHT: 166 CM. AGE: 23. HOMETOWN: SAITAMA.

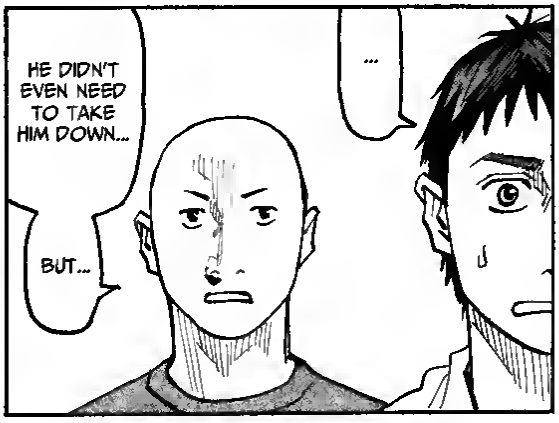
FIGHT!
WHAT A BODY...
DOES HE REALLY WEIGH 65 KG...?
HIS BODY YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF.
HIS TECHNIQUE IS...
...JUST AS IMPRESSIVE.
HE'S GOT A LEFT JAB...

THEN WHEN HIS OPPO-NENT'S DIS-TRACTED...
...AND BACKS OFF A LITTLE...
...THAT HE SUDDENLY TURNS INTO A LEFT UPPERCUT.
!


ゴッ
FOUR!
THREE!
TWO!
DOWN!
ONE!
...HE HITS 'EM WITH A LONG RIGHT HOOK.

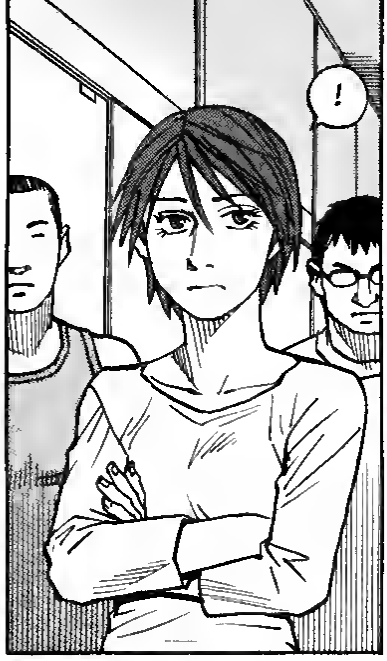
Match over!

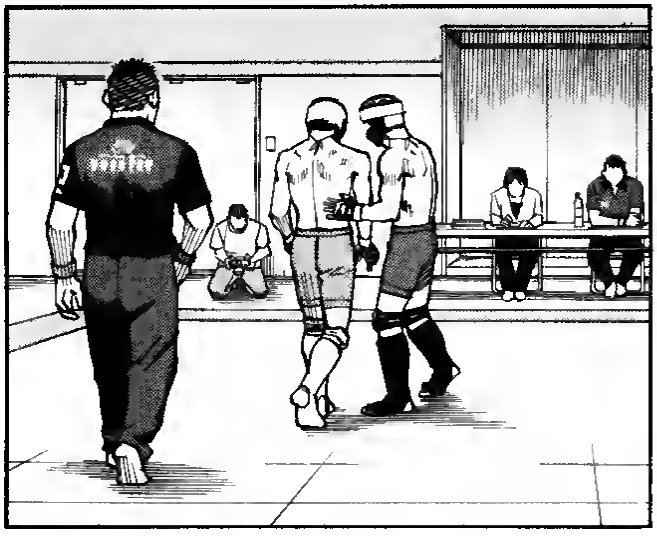

YUDAI'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A TECHNICAL TYPE...
MMM...
IF HE'S GOT A JUDO BASE, DOES THAT MEAN HIS STYLE'S CLOSE TO YUDAI'S?
...WHEREAS KAGAYA'S GOT BOTH POWER AND SKILL.

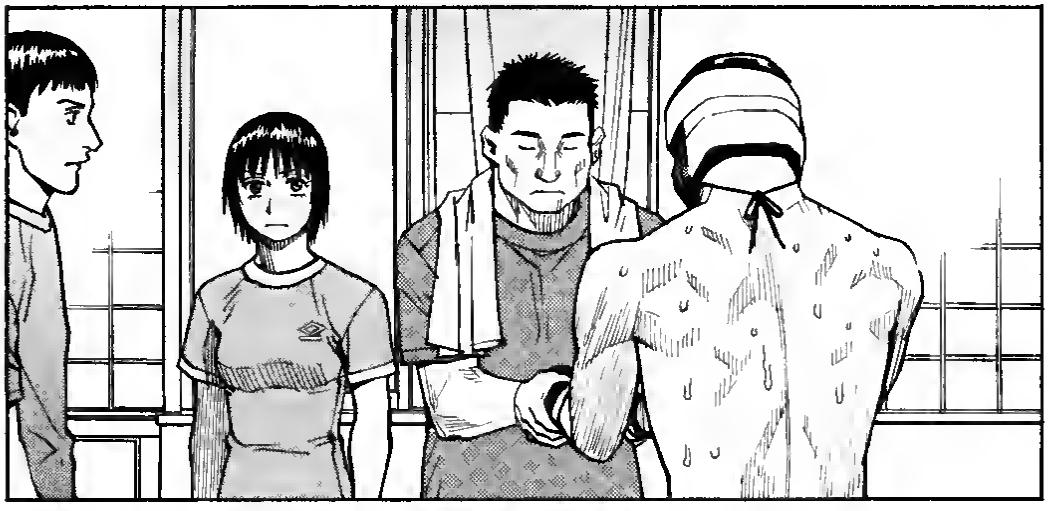

HE DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO TAKE HIM DOWN...
...
BUT...

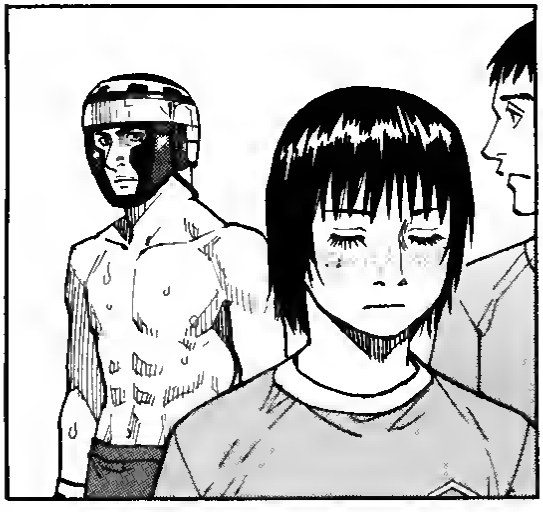
HE TENDS TO FINISH WITH KEYLOCKS AND SHOULDER LOCKS.
...WHEN IT COMES TO GRAPPLING, HE'S STRONG THERE, TOO.

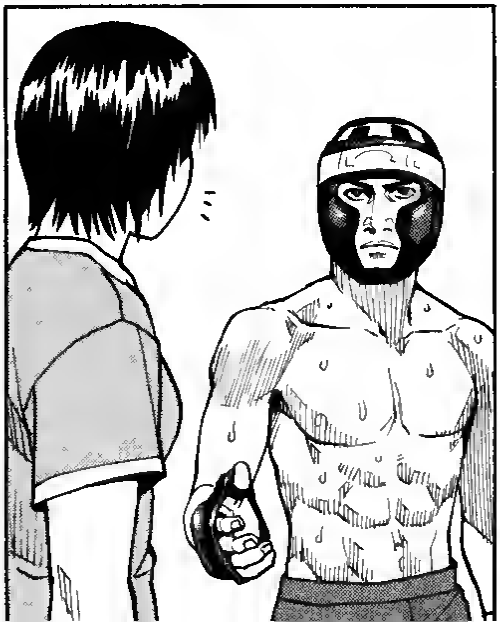
HE GOT INJURED LAST YEAR...
...SO HE'S PRETTY SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING THIS TIME.
HE'S NOT LIKE ANYONE YOU'VE FOUGHT BEFORE. HE TENDS TO BE NON-STOP OFFENSE FROM START TO FINISH.
A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK IT'S A GIVEN HE'LL WIN.
...
...WELL, IT'LL BE GOOD EXPERI-ENCE, ANYWAY...
...
SO...
HOW CAN I BEAT HIM?
...

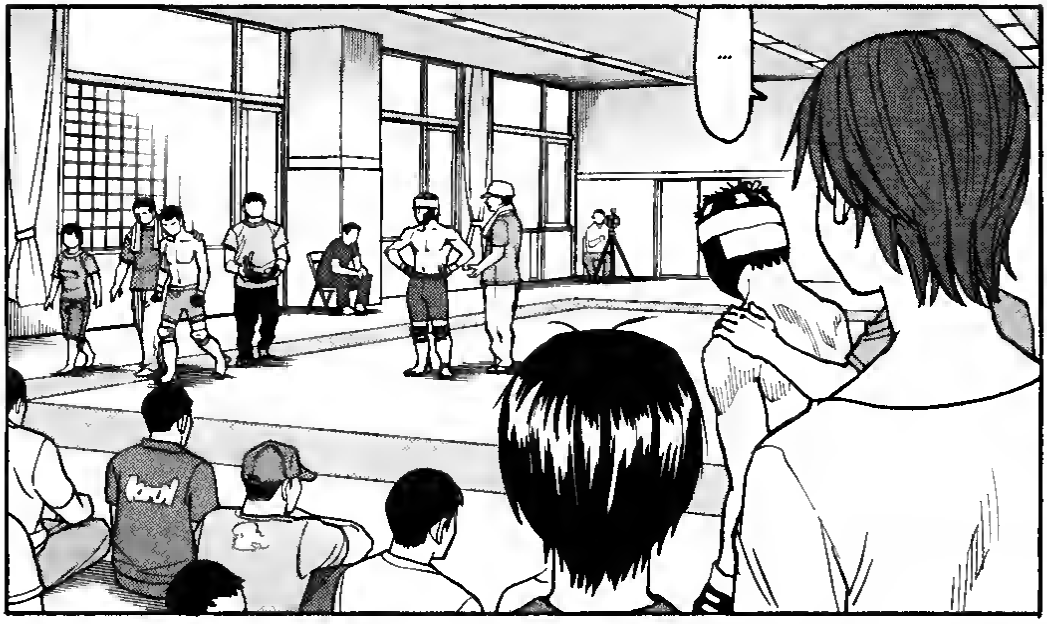











...

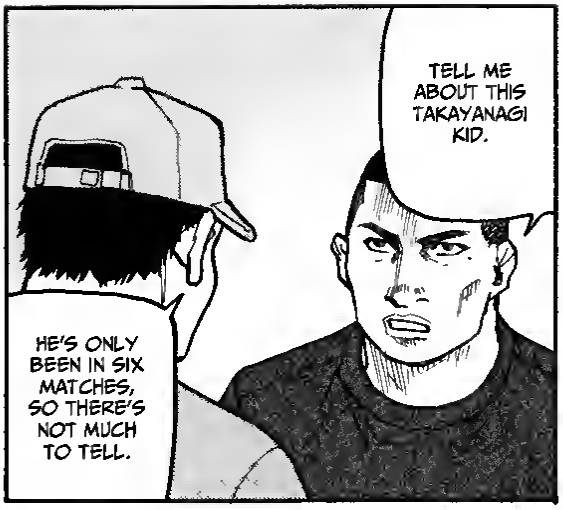
THE REST OF THE FINAL FOUR ARE A BUNCH OF HIGH SCHOOL KIDS!
ANYWAY, WHAT THE HELL, MAN?

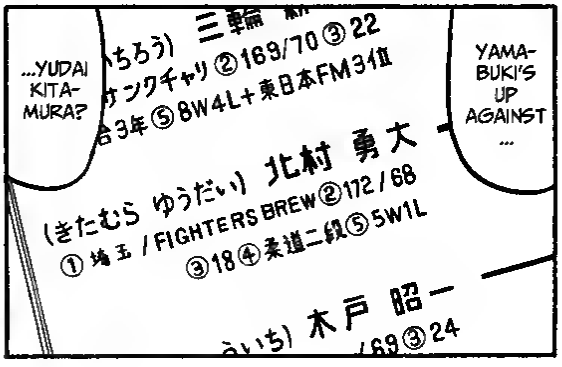
HMPH.
THEY REALLY HATE YOU, KAGAYA.

...BEING PART OF THEIR LITTLE BEST FRIENDS CLUB.
SO? I'LL NEVER GET STRONGER ...

WHAT IS THIS, SOME SORT OF VARSITY TEAM?
THE OTHER LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTERS ARE PATHETIC!

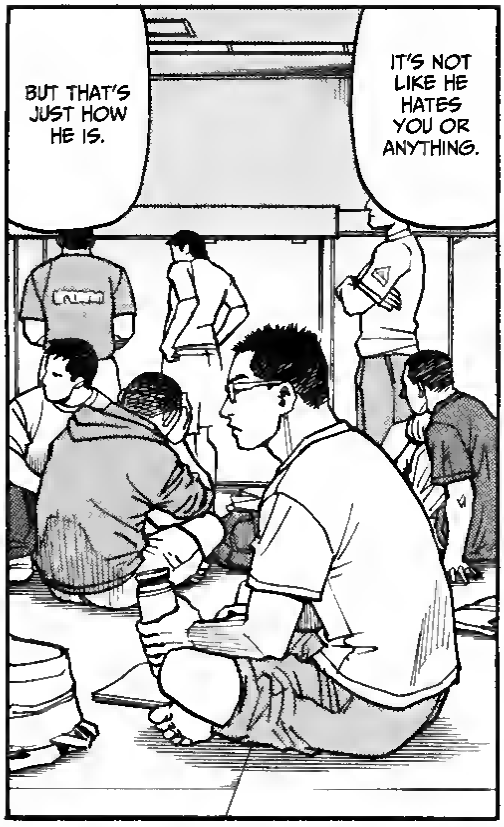
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOME-WHERE BEFORE...
OH!
WHAT ABOUT IT?

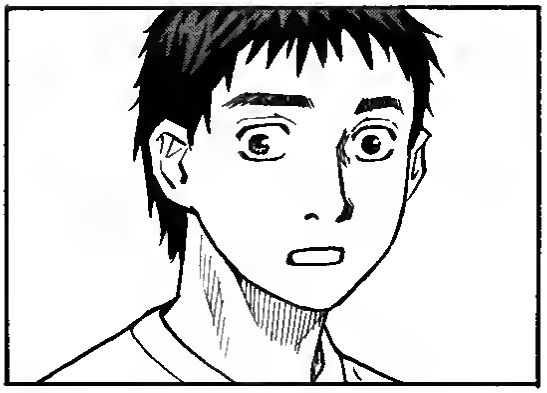

TELL ME ABOUT THIS TAKAYANAGI KID.
HE'S ONLY BEEN IN SIX MATCHES, SO THERE'S NOT MUCH TO TELL.

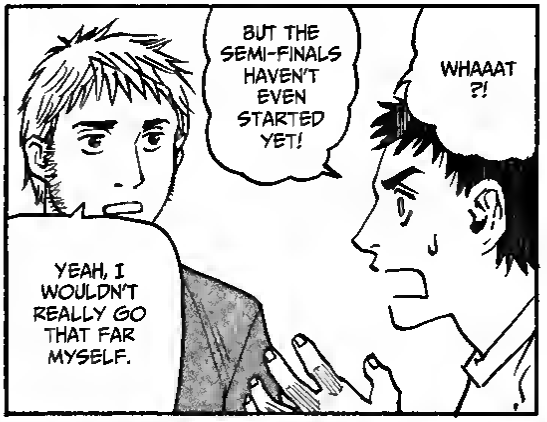

...YUDAI KITA-MURA?
YAMA-BUKI'S UP AGAINST ...
(きたむら ゆうだい) 北村 勇大
①埼玉/FIGHTERS BREW ②172/68
③18 ④柔道二段 ⑤5W1L

YOU KNOW HIM?
REMEMBER ...?
THAT KID FROM SAITAMA WHO MADE NEWS IN HIGH SCHOOL JUDO WORLD...
SAIDAI KITAMURA !
THAT'S PROBABLY HIS LITTLE BROTHER.

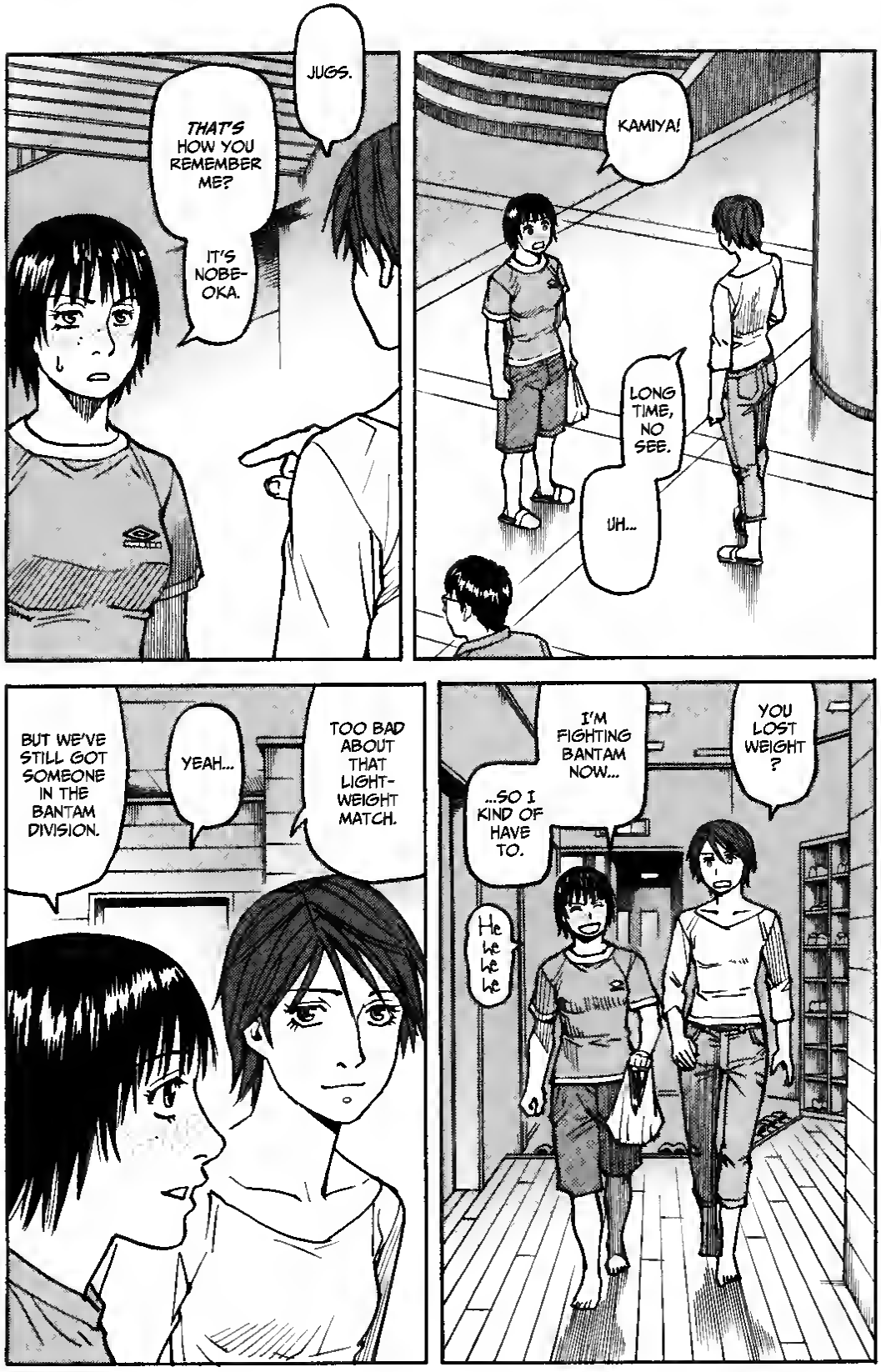
HUH?
YUDAI?
ずいるる
ずいる
ENERGY
!
HUH? WHY?
'CAUSE THERE'S A CHANCE HE MIGHT BE FIGHTING YOU IN THE FINAL.
?
HE SAID...
...HE WANTS TO GO SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR THE REST OF THE TOURNAMENT.

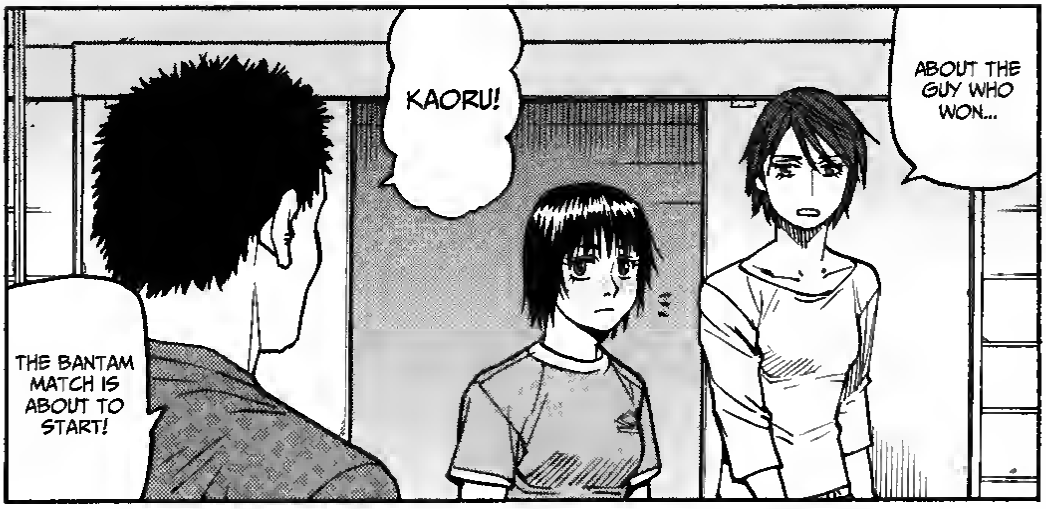

IT'S NOT LIKE HE HATES YOU OR ANYTHING.
BUT THAT'S JUST HOW HE IS.




WHAAAT ?!
BUT THE SEMI-FINALS HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED YET!
YEAH, I WOULDN'T REALLY GO THAT FAR MYSELF.

!
HI!

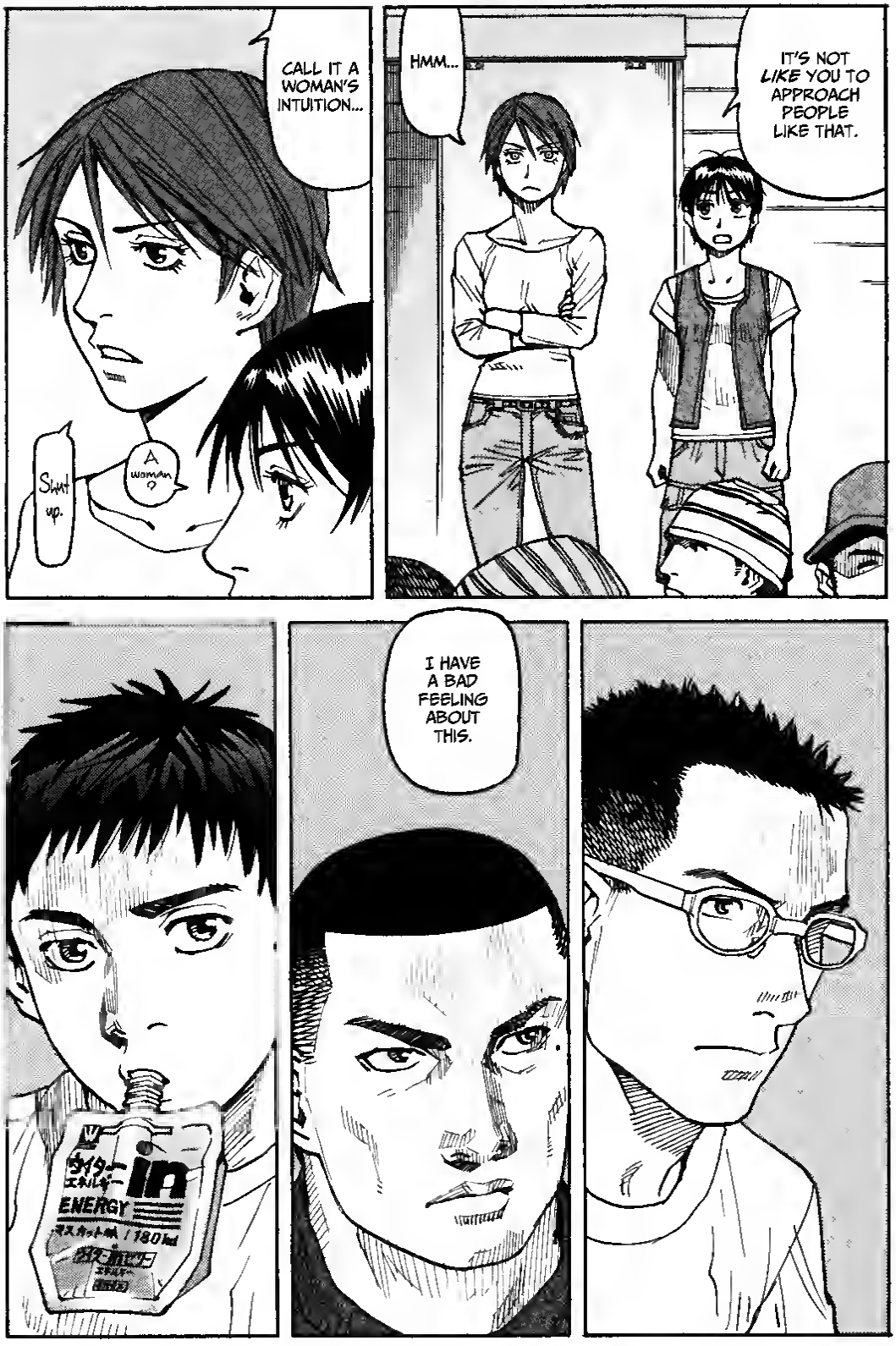

JUGS.
THAT'S HOW YOU REMEMBER ME?
IT'S NOBE-OKA.
KAMIYA!
LONG TIME, NO SEE.
UH...
YOU LOST WEIGHT?
I'M FIGHTING BANTAM NOW...
...SO I KIND OF HAVE TO.
He he he
TOO BAD ABOUT THAT LIGHT-WEIGHT MATCH.
YEAH...
BUT WE'VE STILL GOT SOMEONE IN THE BANTAM DIVISION.


KAORU!
ABOUT THE GUY WHO WON...
THE BANTAM MATCH IS ABOUT TO START!

YEAH.
D'YOU KNOW HER, MAKI?

...
SEE YA!

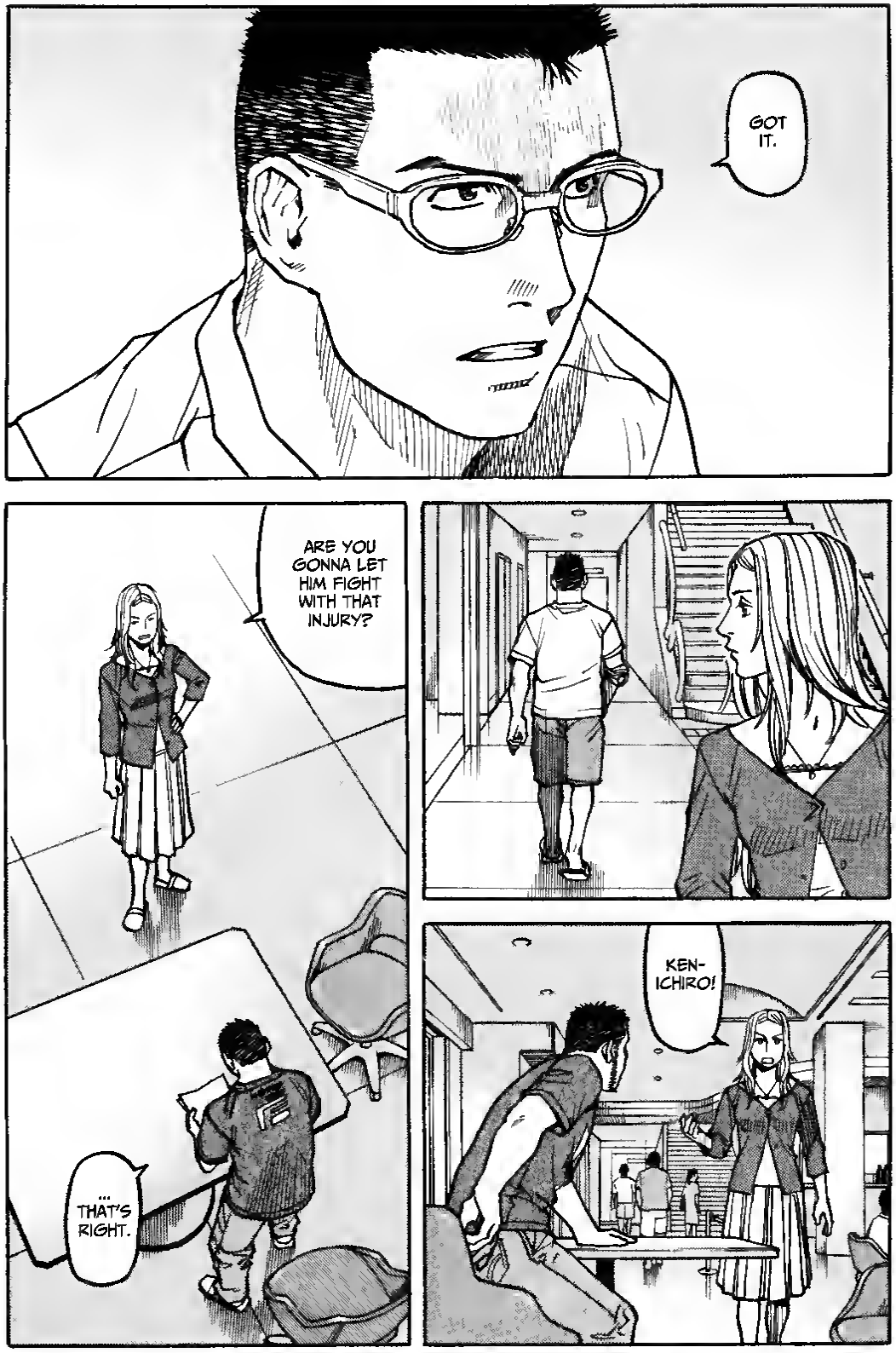
WOW ...
I FOUGHT HER ONCE.

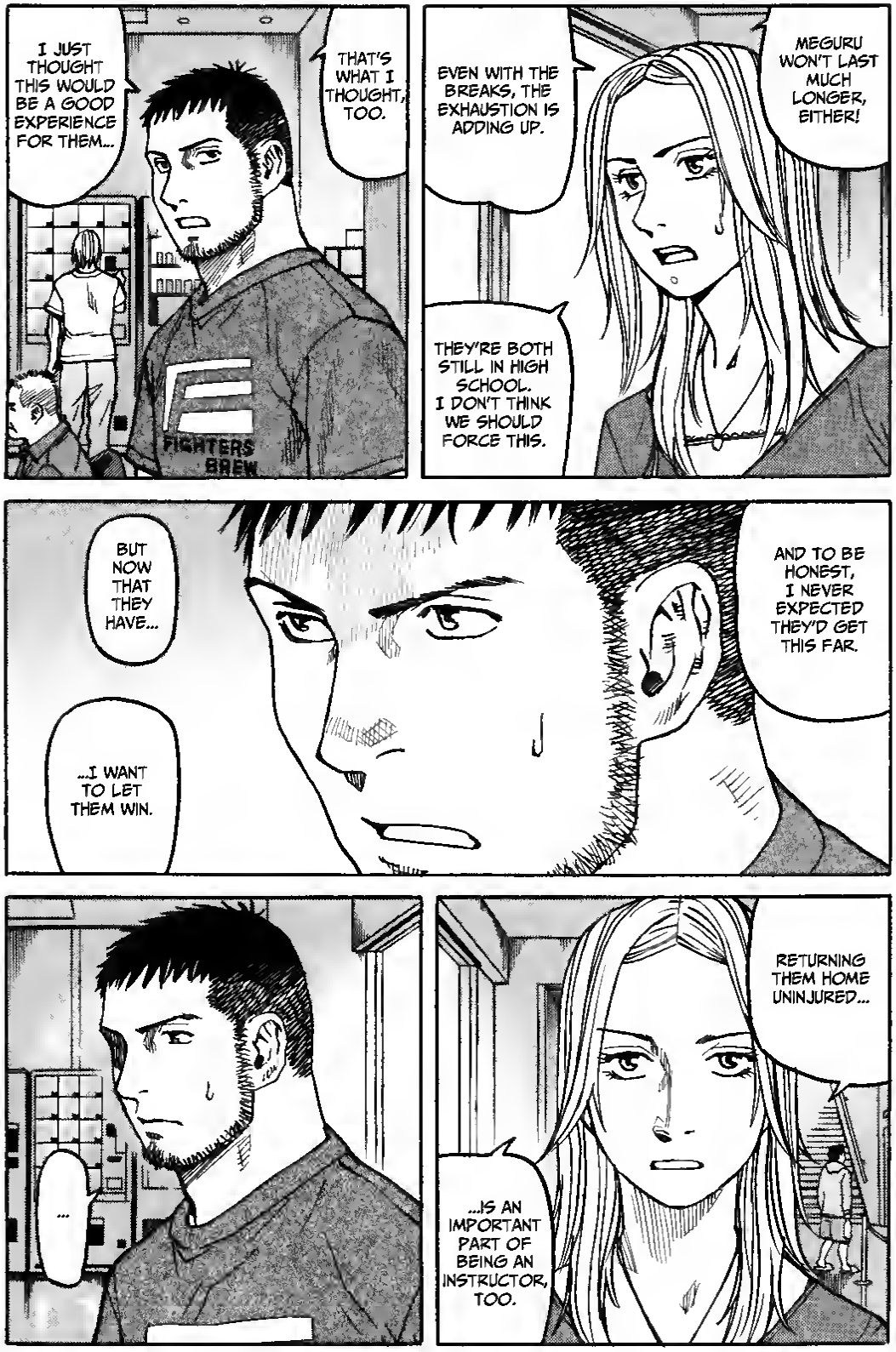

CALL IT A WOMAN'S INTUITION...
Shut up.
A woman?
HMM...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO APPROACH PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
ENERGY

Chapter 43 | Tangled Up in Blue

MIWA, THE GUY WHO WAS...
...UP AGAINST YAMABUKI IN THE FIRST ROUND...
...HE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA...
...HE WAS GOOD UP TILL THAT POINT.
...FOLLOWED BY A LEFT BODY BLOW...
...EVEN THOUGH HE LOST.
...THE RIGHT HIGH KICK INTO ACCOUNT.
HE JUST DIDN'T TAKE...
A LEFT HOOK FOR A LEFT MIDDLE KICK...

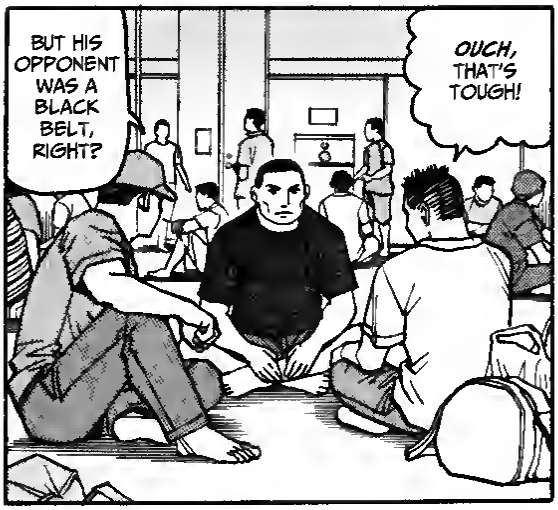
A RIGHT HIGH KICK IS HOW YAMABUKI FINISHES HIS MATCH.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH MEGURU, TOO.
AND SO...
...HE GOT KO'D.
YUDAI.
YOU CAN'T DO A RIGHT PUNCH RIGHT NOW, AND YOU DON'T NEED TO.
KEEP ADVANC-ING WITH YOUR LEFT.
WATCH FOR WHEN HE'S ABOUT TO SWITCH...
...AND SHOOT FOR A TAKE-DOWN.

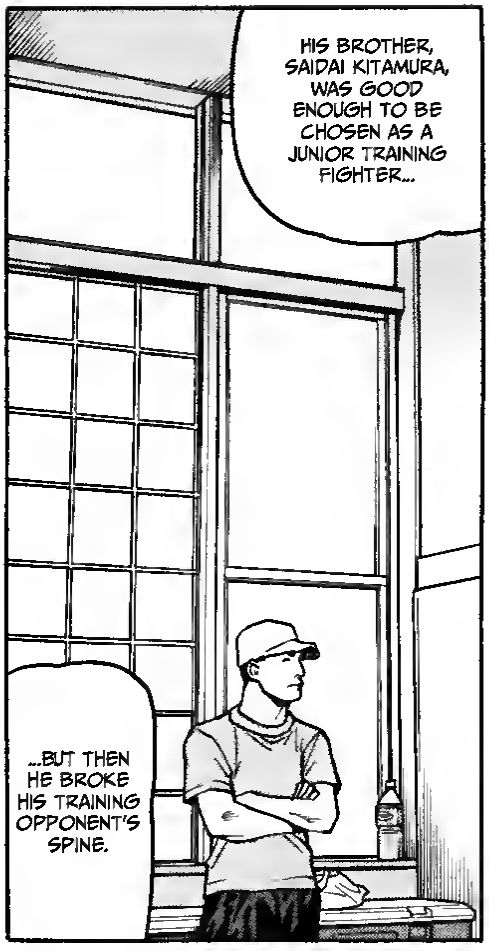

GOT IT.
ARE YOU GONNA LET HIM FIGHT WITH THAT INJURY?
...THAT'S RIGHT.
KEN-ICHIRO!

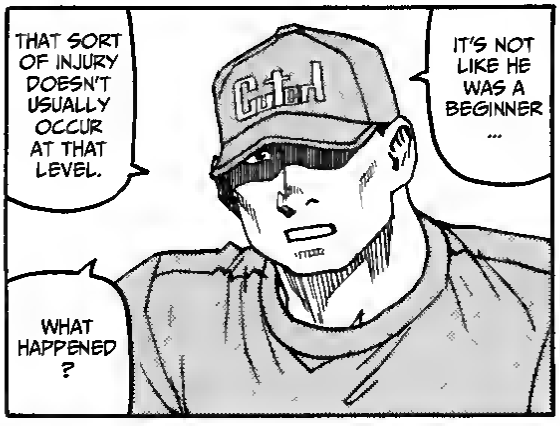

I JUST THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR THEM...
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO.
FIGHTERS BREW
EVEN WITH THE BREAKS, THE EXHAUSTION IS ADDING UP.
MEGURU WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER, EITHER!
THEY'RE BOTH STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD FORCE THIS.
BUT NOW THAT THEY HAVE...
AND TO BE HONEST, I NEVER EXPECTED THEY'D GET THIS FAR.
...I WANT TO LET THEM WIN.
...
RETURNING THEM HOME UNINJURED...
...IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF BEING AN INSTRUCTOR, TOO.

Mori wins ...
...by decision.
20 to 23.
Blue.
ZZZ—
...

KAZU, COME ON!
UH... WELL ...
WHY DID KITAMURA PUNCH THAT THIRD-YEAR?
UMM ...
AFTER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING HIS BROTHER...
...IT MADE IT HARD FOR YUDAI TO STAY ON THE TEAM...
BUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIS BROTHER ...
...DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM, RIGHT?
WELL, MAYBE SO, BUT...
...SOME PEOPLE ON THE TEAM DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO CONTINUE WITH JUDO...
...WHEN HIS BROTHER HAD TO QUIT...
...AFTER BASICALLY RUINING SOME GUY'S LIFE

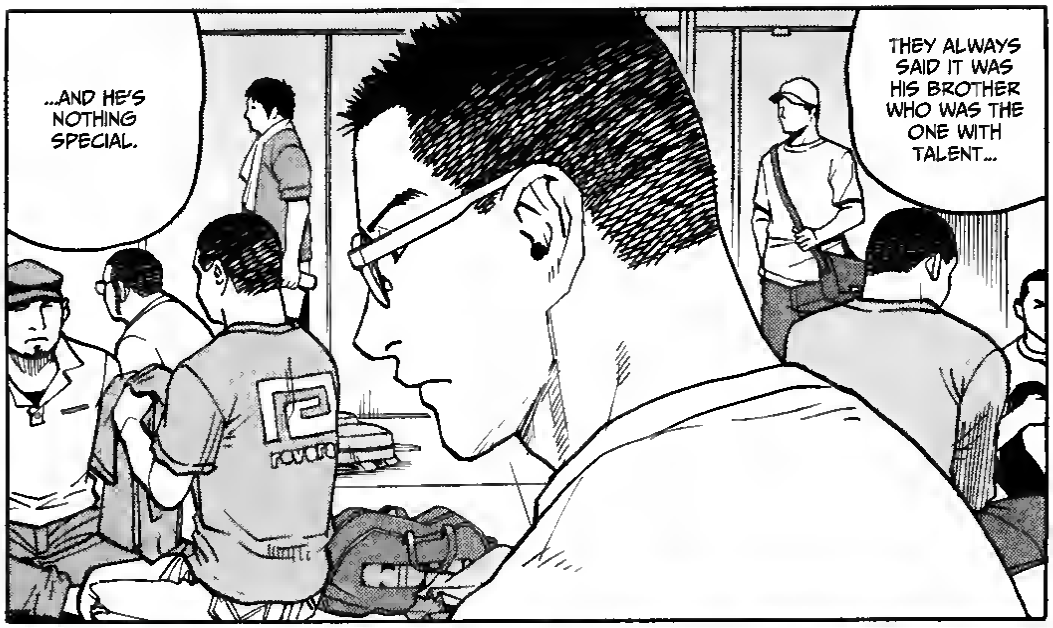

BUT HIS OPPONENT WAS A BLACK BELT, RIGHT?
OUCH, THAT'S TOUGH!

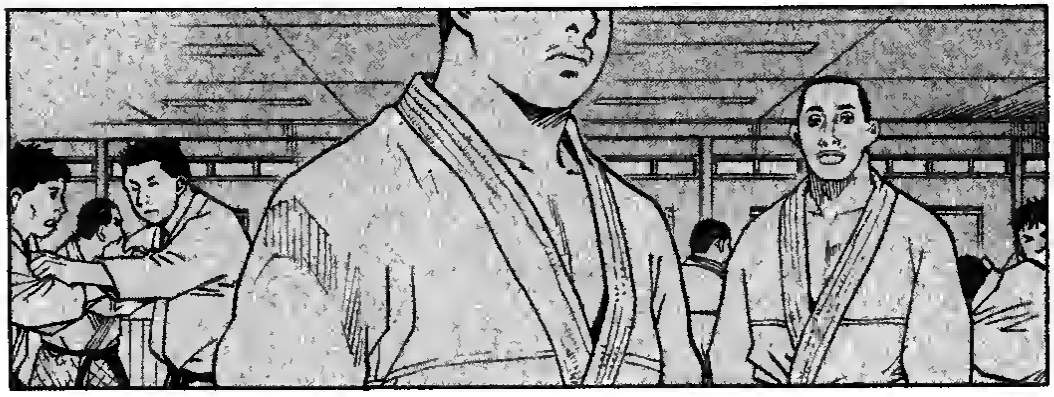

HIS BROTHER, SAIDAI KITAMURA, WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO BE CHOSEN AS A JUNIOR TRAINING FIGHTER...
...BUT THEN HE BROKE HIS TRAINING OPPONENT'S SPINE.


THAT SORT OF INJURY DOESN'T USUALLY OCCUR AT THAT LEVEL.
IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS A BEGINNER ...
WHAT HAPPENED ?

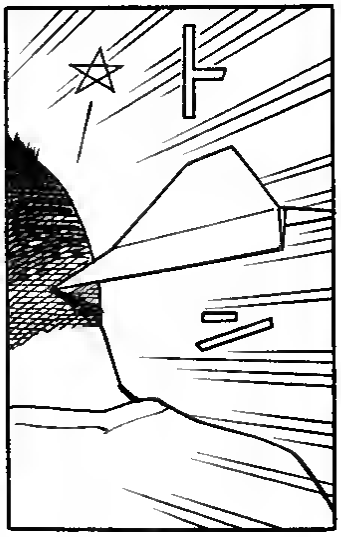
THE SCHOOL DEALT WITH IT INTER-NALLY.
BUT, ANYWAY ...

WE WEREN'T AT THE SAME SCHOOL, SO I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS...
...BUT APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO INSTRUCTOR THERE AT THE TIME.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? SHOULDN'T HE HAVE GONE TO TRIAL FOR THAT?


...AND HE'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
THEY ALWAYS SAID IT WAS HIS BROTHER WHO WAS THE ONE WITH TALENT...

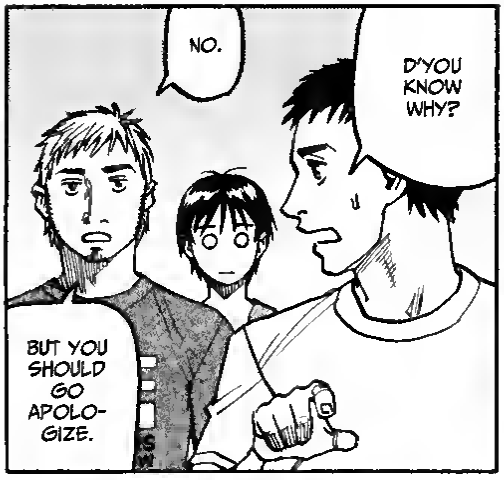


...?



How abo
Ignores
HUH?
...
Wanna go for ramen after?
Megu
...
How about a family restaurant?
Megu
HEY!
OR MAYBE WE COULD DO SUSHI.

EASY, EASY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
UH, IT'S JUST YOU NEVER WANT TO HANG OUT AFTER-WARDS.
THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
FIGHTERS BREW
YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO WOUND UP ABOUT IT...
I BET THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T DO WELL WITH JUDO, RIGHT?
...I THINK MEGURU'S JUST TRYING TO GET YOU TO RELAX.
I DO, BUT...
DO YOU EVEN GET WHY I WENT AND SAT OVER THERE?
MAY-BE...
WHAT HE SAID!
IDIOT...
HUH ...?


NO.
D'YOU KNOW WHY?
BUT YOU SHOULD GO APOLO-GIZE.

...

YOU'RE SO CLUE-LESS.
WAIT, WHAT DID I SAY?
YOU KNOW HE HATES TALKING ABOUT HIS JUDO DAYS.

...
HEY!

!

SORRY.
YOU JUST GONNA IGNORE ME AFTER BUMPING INTO ME LIKE THAT?
I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE.
WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN BOUT!
SHOULDN'T YOU OUGHTA FORFEIT?
WITH THAT ARM...
THANKS ...
...KITA-MURA'S LITTLE BROTHER.

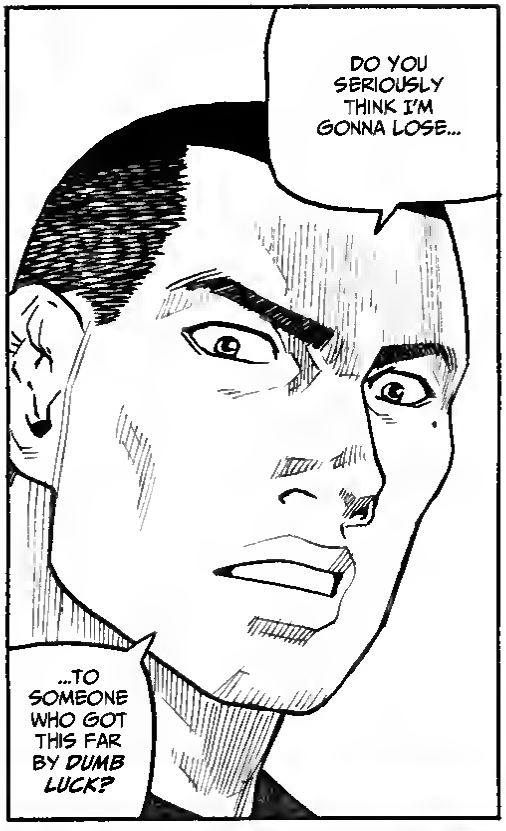
SIGN: JUDO HALL
QUIT DOING MMA.
YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, SO YOU'VE STILL GOT OTHER OPTIONS, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING ELSE?
NO ONE WANTS YOU HERE.

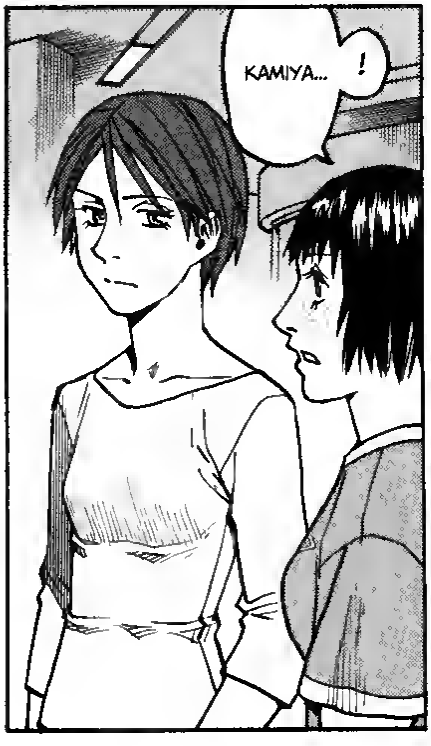
WHOA.
STOP!

STOP IT, YOU THREE!
YOU WANNA GET THROWN OUT?!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
A FIGHT?!

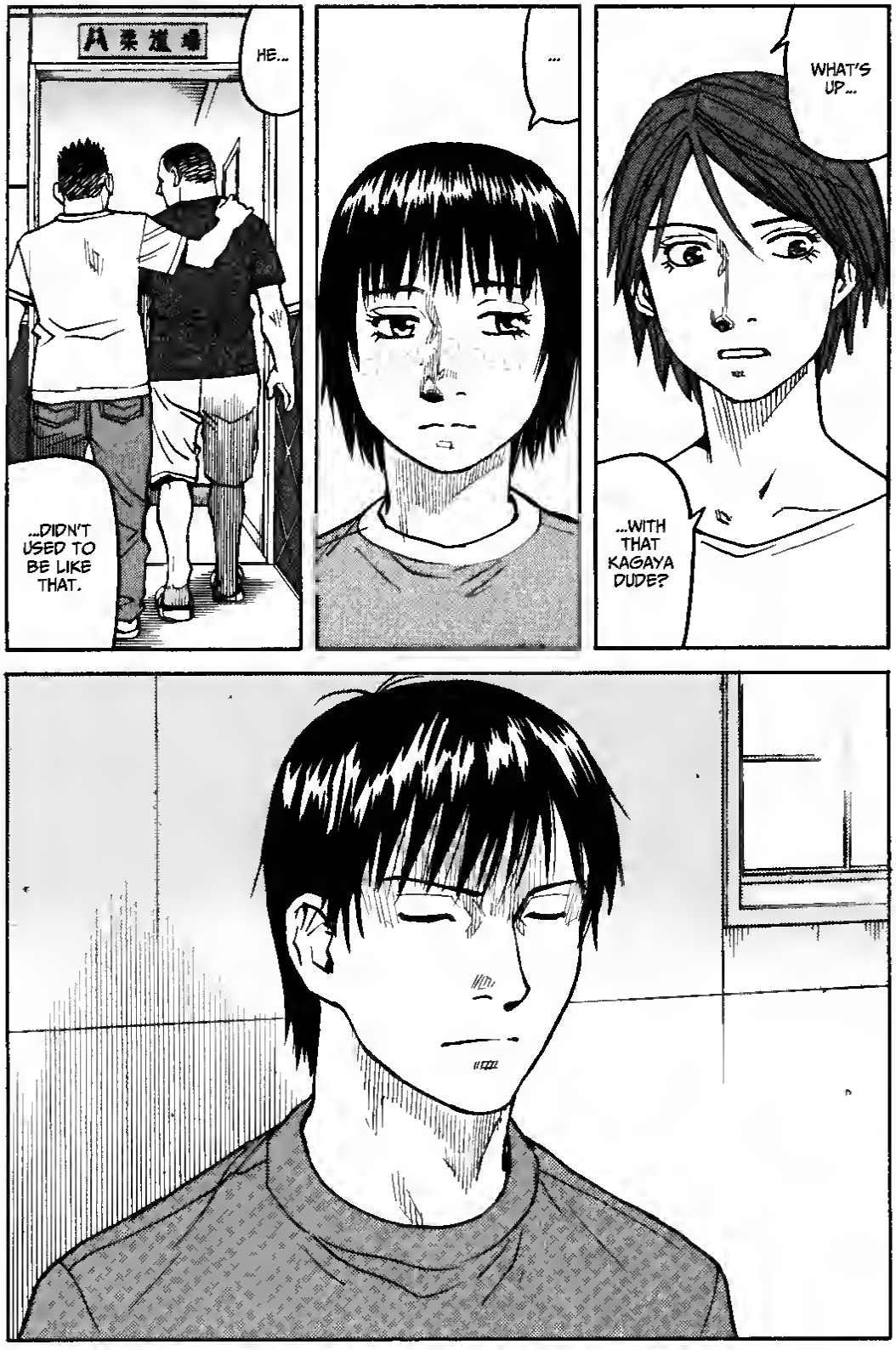
FOR THE FINAL ROUND ...
THERE'S NO POINT IN FIGHTING HERE NOW.
HE'S RIGHT.
SAY THAT AGAIN ...
BAH.
SEE YOU ON THE MAT.
HUH?
ME?
...AFTER YOU'VE BEATEN HIM!
Humph
URGH!

BE CARE-FUL...
...NOT TO HURT YOURSELF.


DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GONNA LOSE...
...TO SOMEONE WHO GOT THIS FAR BY *DUMB LUCK?*

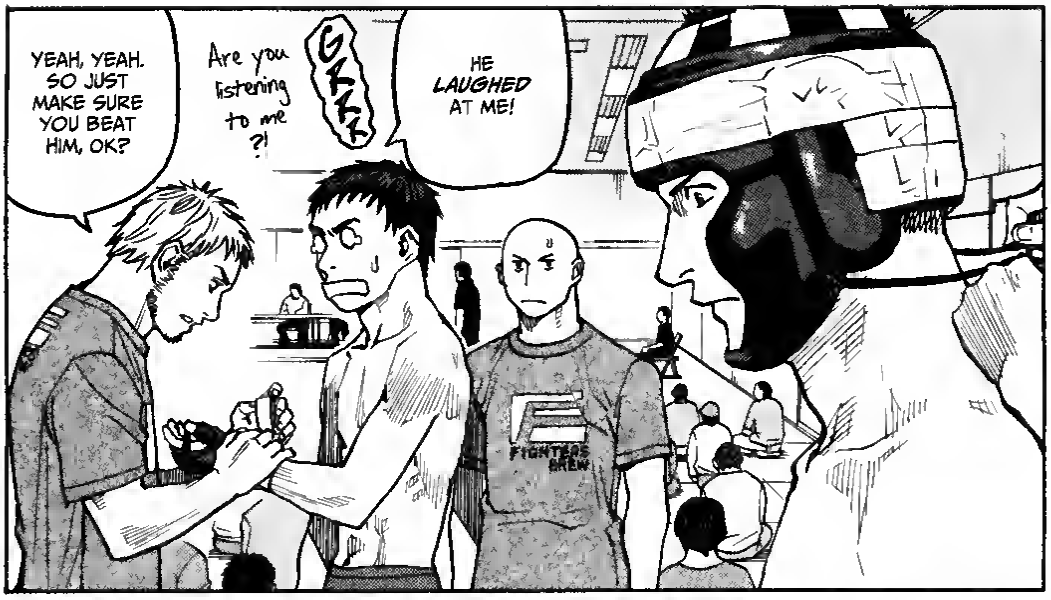

KAMIYA... !

...


HE...
...DIDN'T USED TO BE LIKE THAT.
...
WHAT'S UP...
...WITH THAT KAGAYA DUDE?

IT'S TIME.
TAKA-SHI.

OK.


YEAH, YEAH. SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU BEAT HIM, OK?
Are you listening to me?!
GRRR
HE LAUGHED AT ME!
FIGHTERS BREW

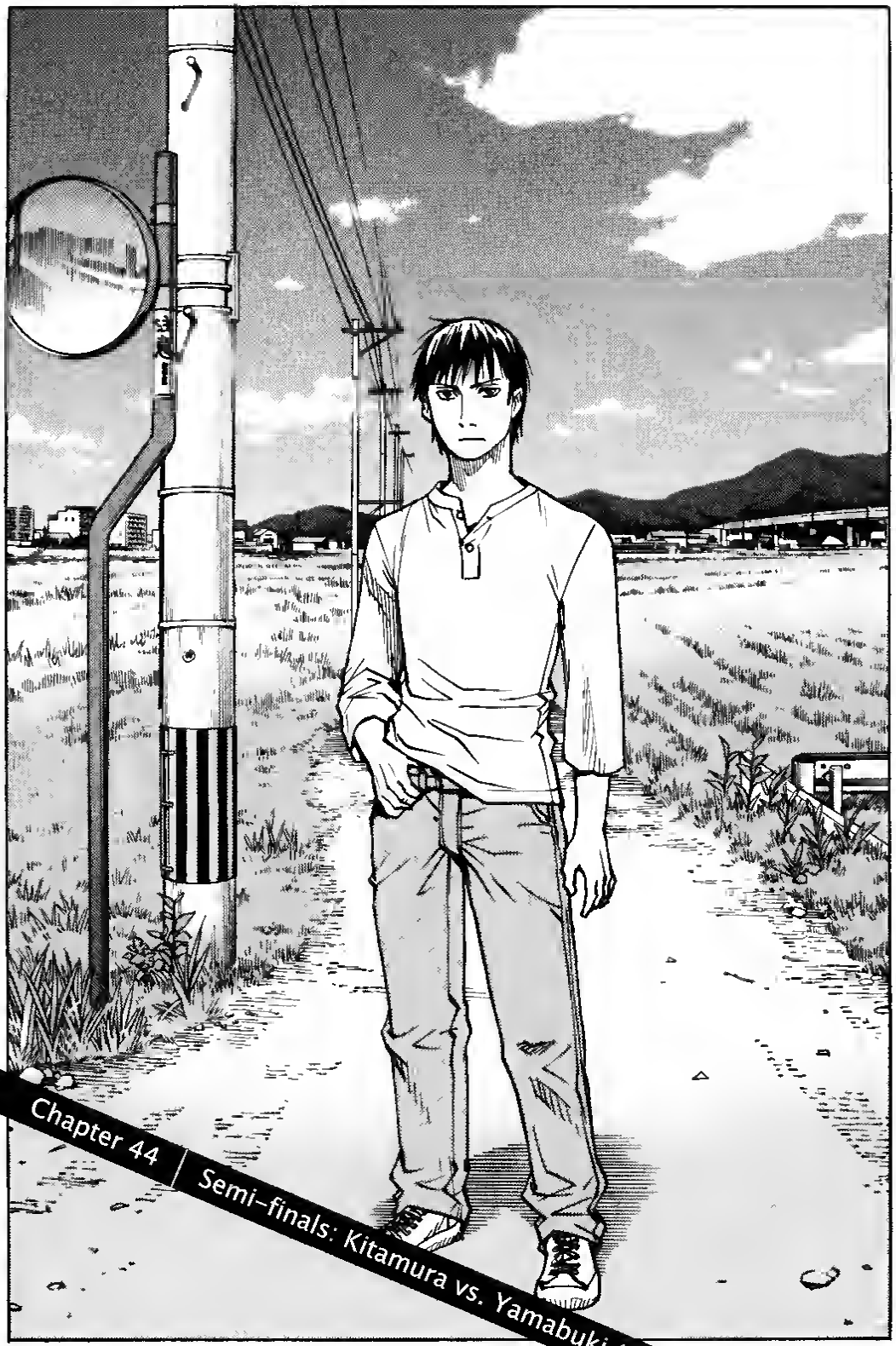
GLANCE

... SORRY.
YOU GET INTO IT WITH SOME-ONE?
GOOD GRIEF ...
FIGHTERS BREW

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A CHANCE THE JUDO MOVES...
YEAH ...?
YUDAI.
...
...ON YAMA-BUKI?
...YOU'VE POLISHED OVER THE YEARS WON'T WORK...

GOOD.
NOW GET OUT THERE AND BEAT HIM!
NOT A CHANCE!
KNOCK HIM OUT.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TAKA-SHI.

Match 51.
Light-weight division.
Semi-final round!

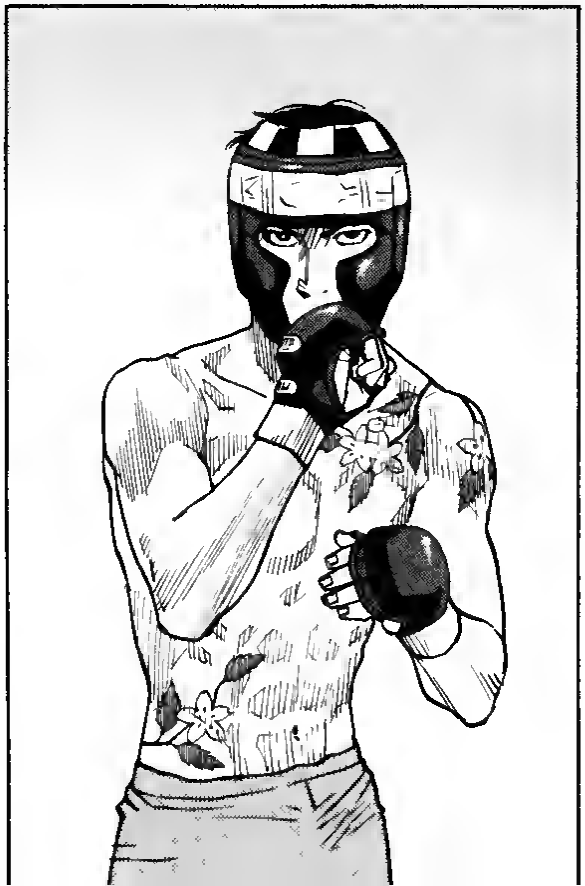


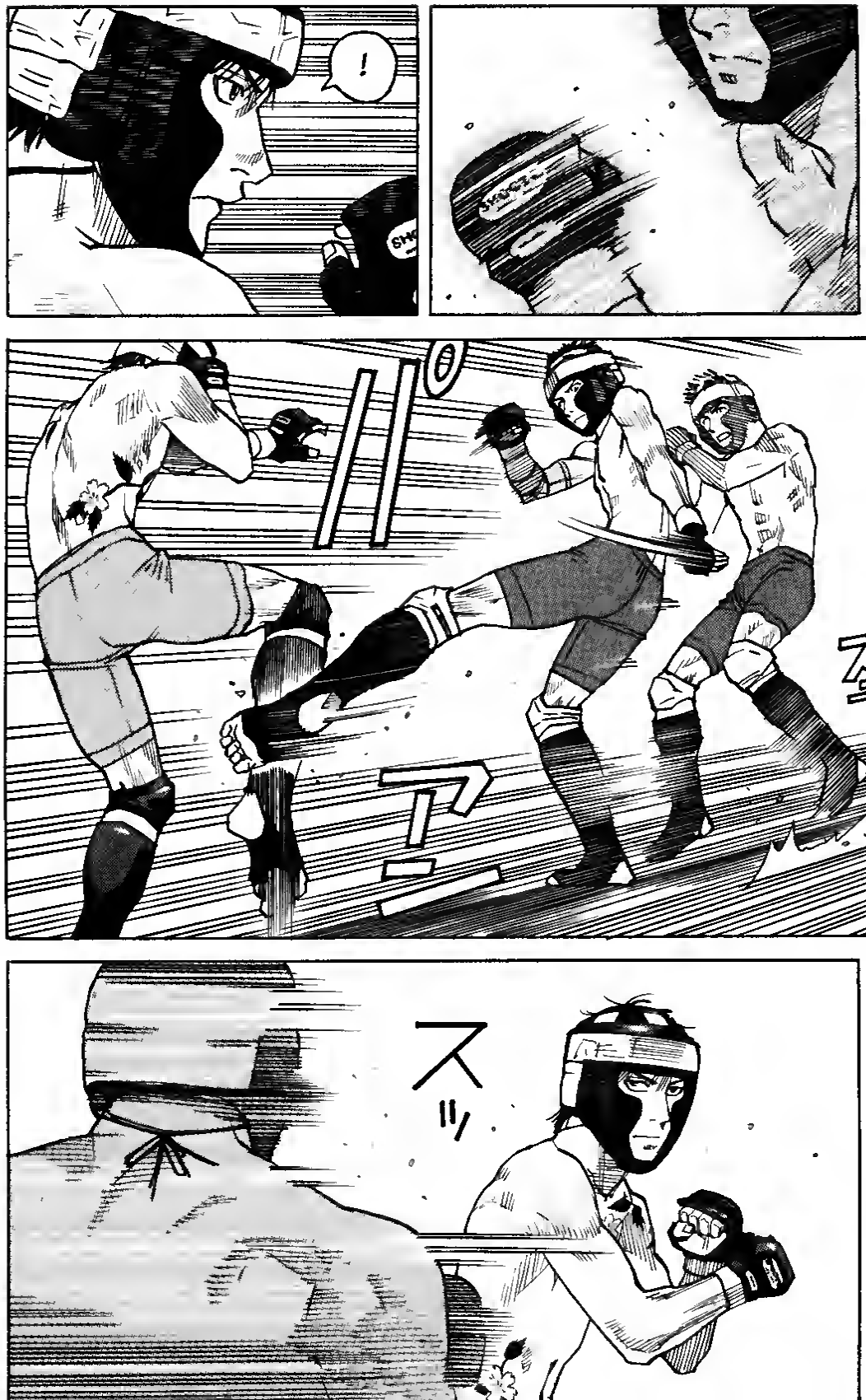
Chapter 44 | Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 1)

And in the blue corner, with Kogure Dojo...
...Takashi Yamabuki!
In the red corner, with Fighters Brew...
...Yudai Kitamura!

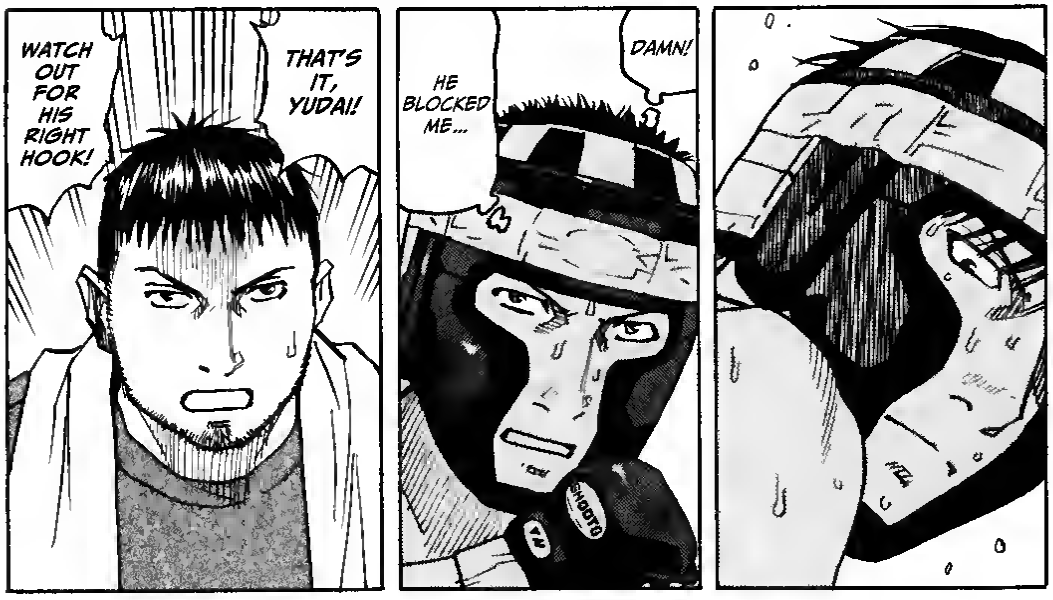
FIGHT
!
カカ
FIGHTERS
DEN

..AND STEP TO THE LEFT.
CLOSE THE DIS-TANCE ...

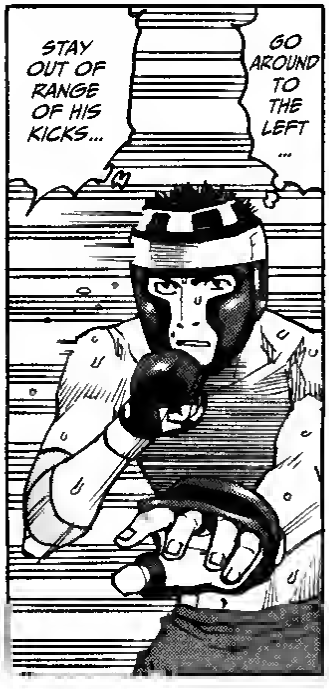



!
スキャッ。
ス

...AND GO AROUND TO HIS LEFT.
STAY OUT OF RANGE OF HIS KICKS...
YUDAI MADE THE FIRST MOVE!
WHOA!
...WITH A JAB...
THEN STEP IN...
THEN A LEFT BODY SHOT!


WATCH OUT FOR HIS RIGHT HOOK!
THAT'S IT, YUDAI!
HE BLOCKED ME...
DAMN!

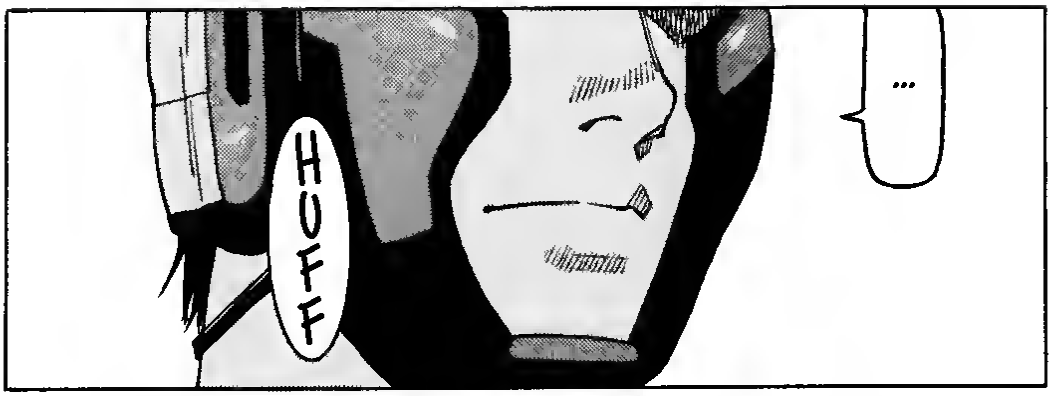
HEH!
SOME-HOW, YUDAI...
HE'S MANAGED TO SET THE PACE AGAINST YAMABUKI ...?
LOOKS LIKE...
...HE'S UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT TAKASHI'S A MUAY THAI-STYLE SOUTHPAW...
...WITH NOTHING BUT A LEFT MIDDLE KICK IN HIS REPER-TOIRE.


STAY OUT OF RANGE OF HIS KICKS...
GO AROUND TO THE LEFT ...

GOOD, YUDAI!
KEEP THAT DISTANCE !

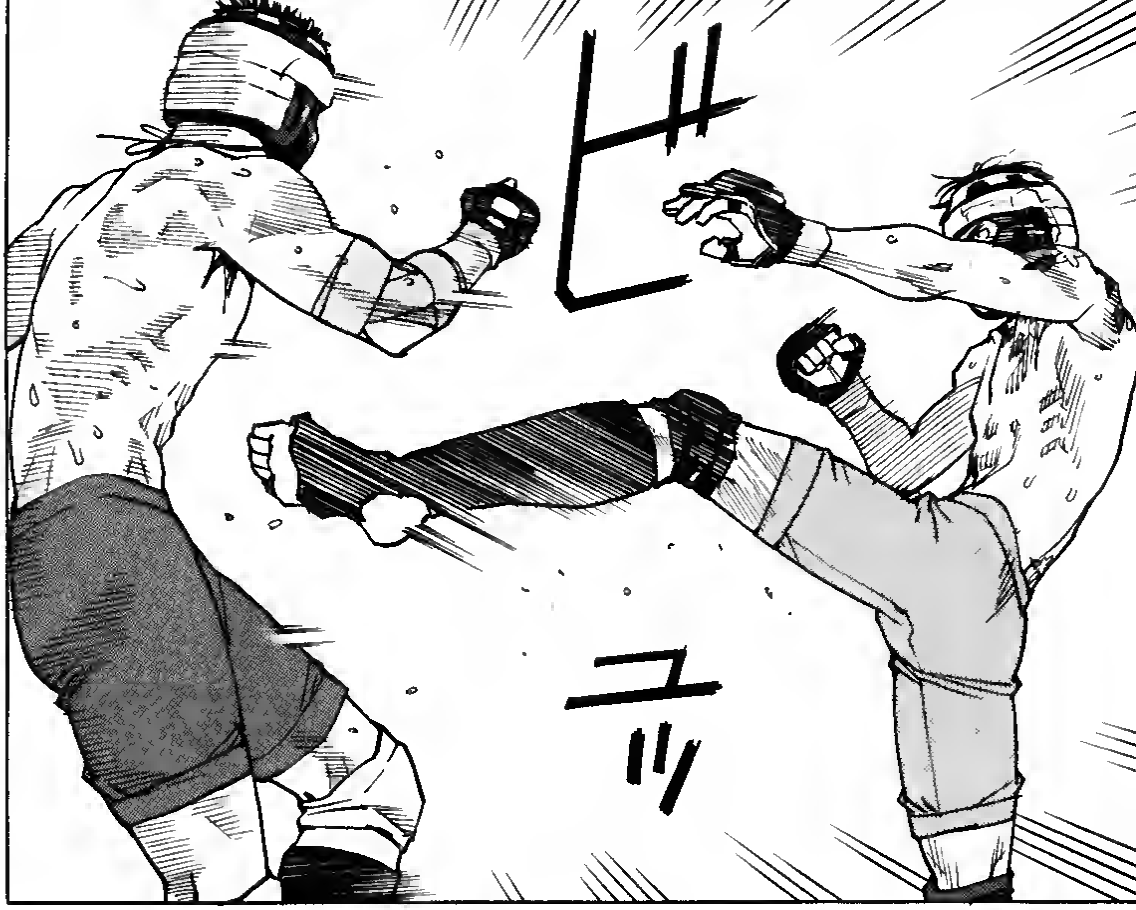
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT !
SHIT!

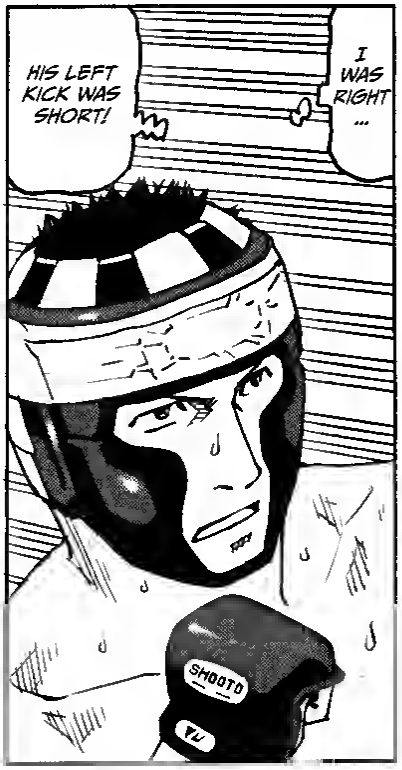
...
...AND GO IN FOR A JAB!
WATCH OUT FOR HIS RIGHT HOOK...
...WILL IT REALLY WORK?
I BET HE'LL ATTEMPT A TAKEDOWN WHEN TAKASHI SWITCHES, BUT...

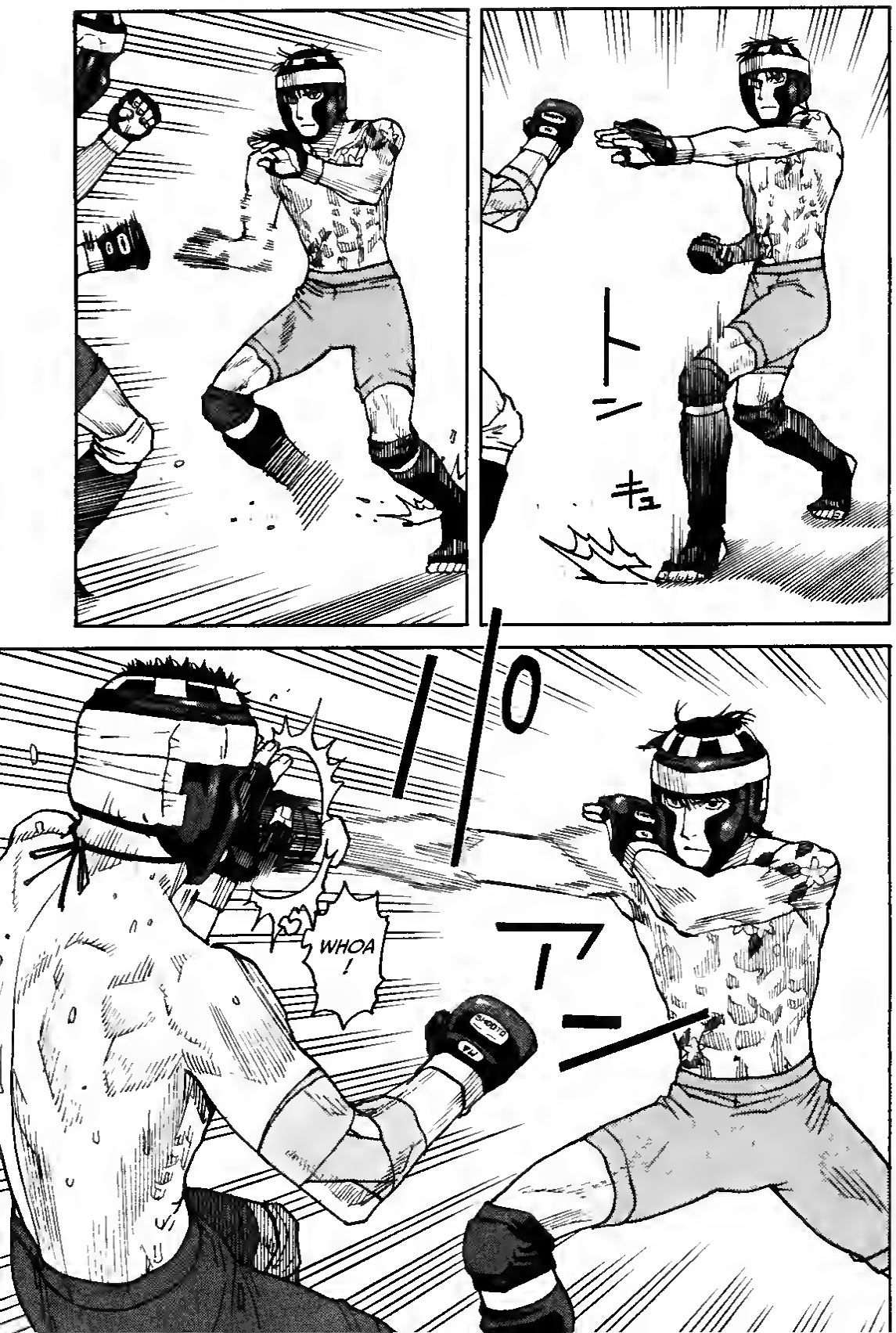

...
HUFF

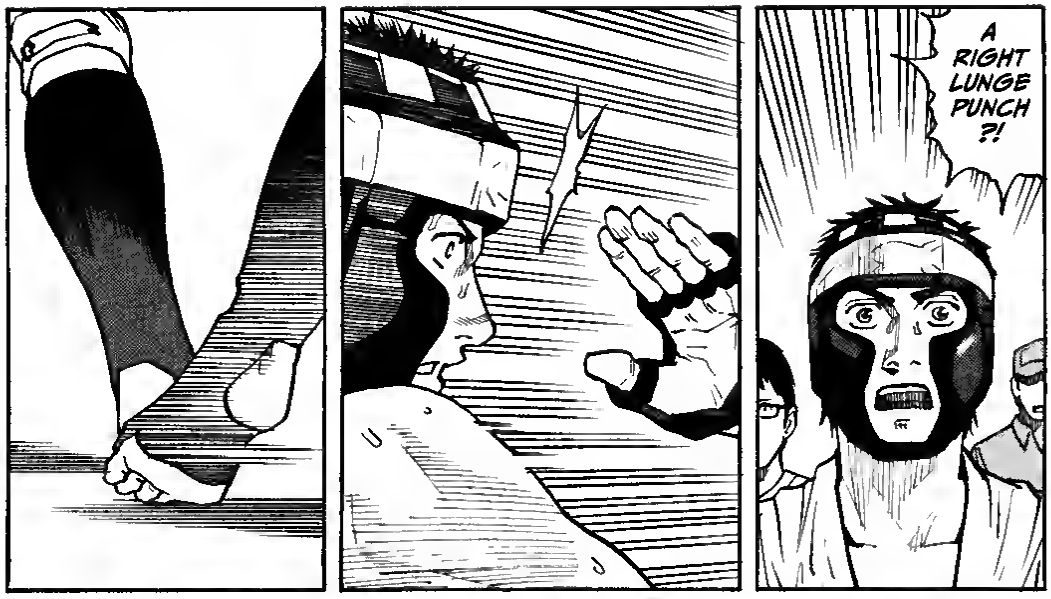
HAAH
HAAH

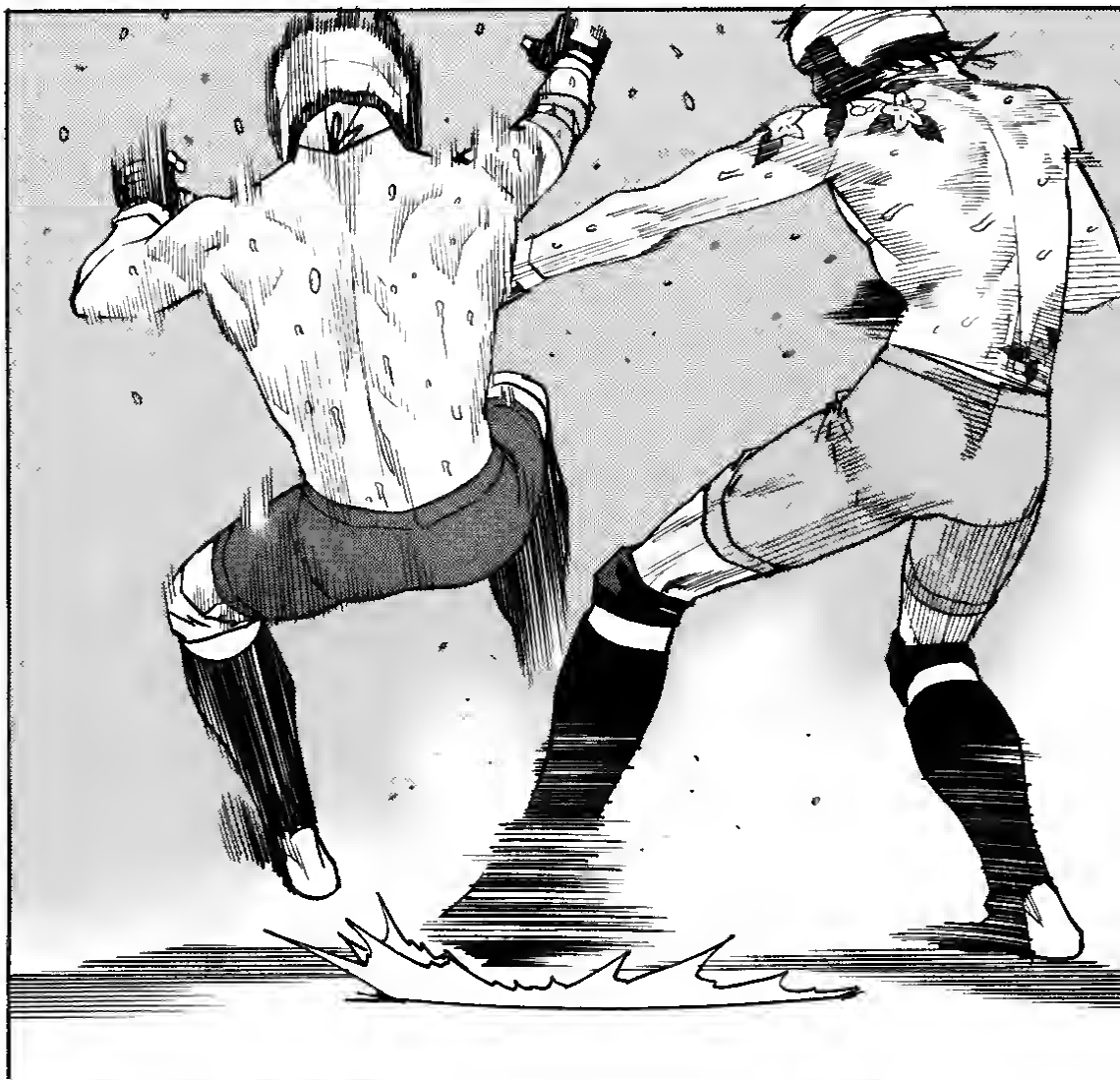
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE ...
HE'S SWITCHED TO A SANCHIN STANCE.
YOU REALLY BRING YOUR ARMS IN THAT TIGHT?!
HERE IT COMES ...
!
HIS ARMS ARE IN AND HIS BODY'S OPEN...
NO WAY HIS KICKS CAN REACH FAR IN THAT POSITION...
SHOOTO
SINCE 1985
SKEED




HIS LEFT KICK WAS SHORT!
I WAS RIGHT ...
SHOOTO


トン
キュ
WHOA
!
10
アン

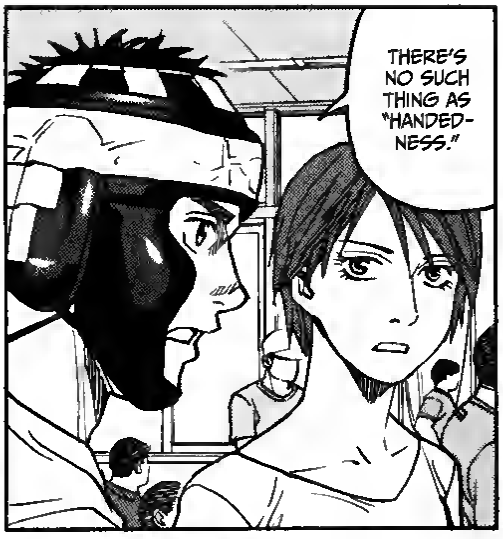

A RIGHT LUNGE PUNCH ?!

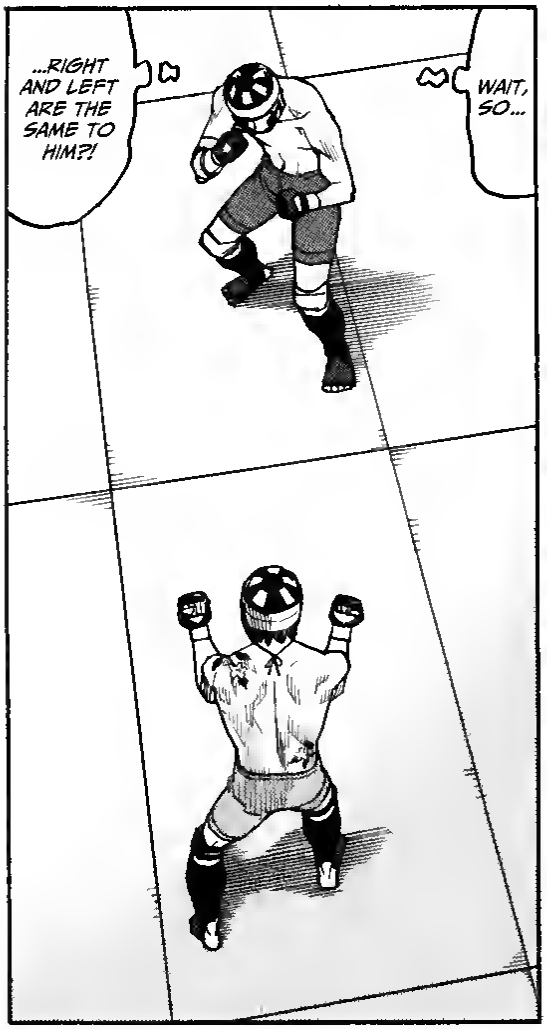


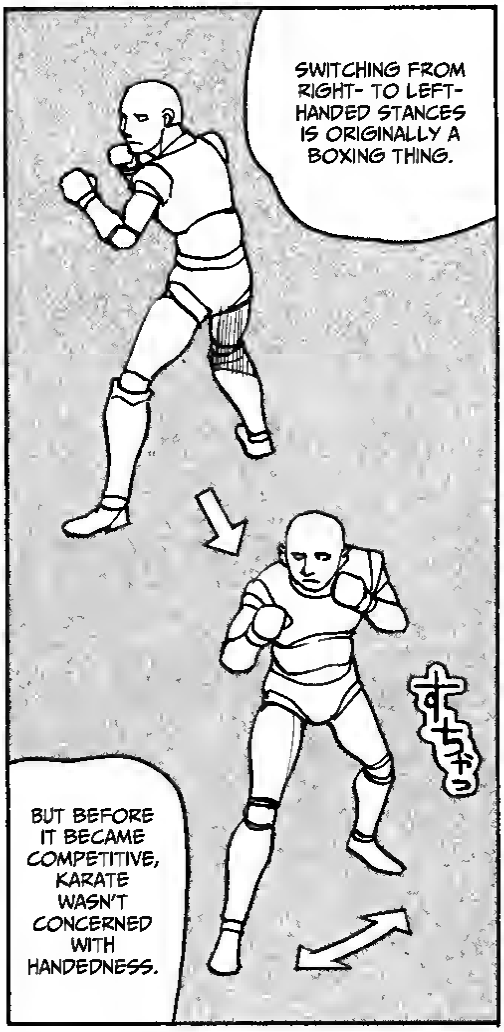
STAND UP!
BREAK!

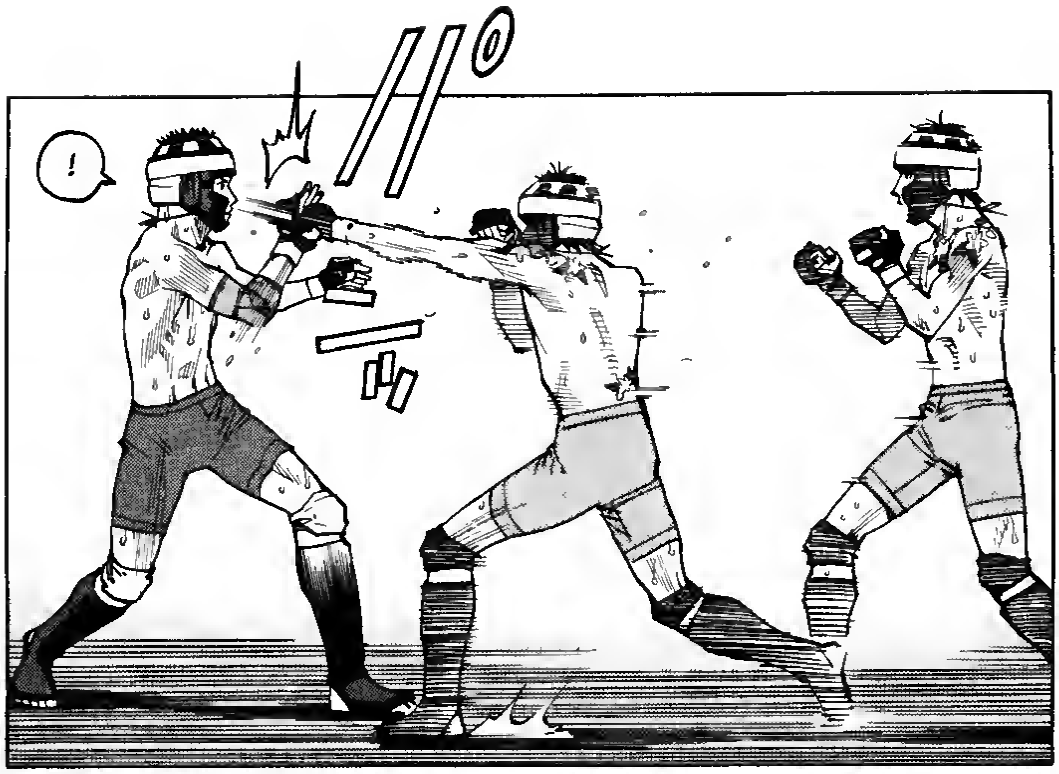
DID YAMABUKI JUST SWITCH?
...NO.
DID... HE...
...PULL A RIGHT SWITCH FOR A SECOND ...?
HE JUST...
...TOOK THREE STEPS FORWARD.
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
THAT MUAY THAI KICK'S JUST ONE OF HIS MOVES...
AFTER ALL, IN KARATE...

WITH KARATE KATA...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...THERE'S NO RIGHT-HANDED OR LEFT-HANDED VERSION.

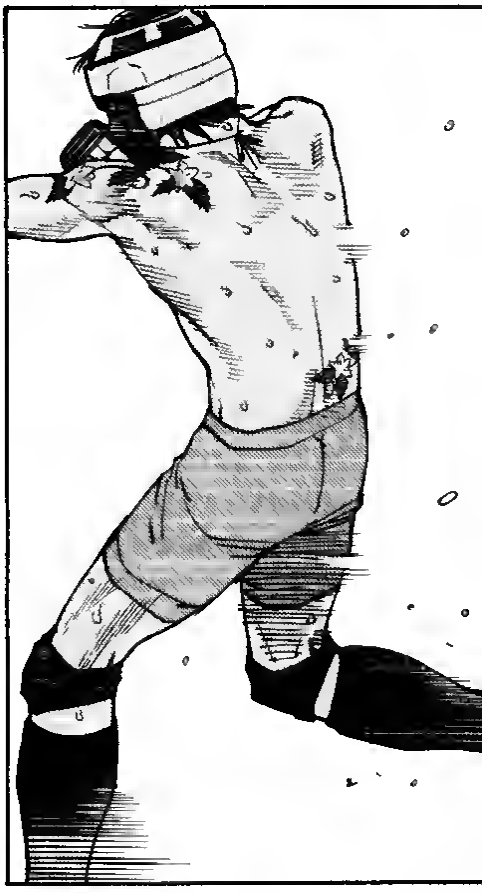

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS "HANDED-NESS."


...RIGHT AND LEFT ARE THE SAME TO HIM?!
WAIT, SO...


SWITCHING FROM RIGHT- TO LEFT-HANDED STANCES IS ORIGINALLY A BOXING THING.
BUT BEFORE IT BECAME COMPETITIVE, KARATE WASN'T CONCERNED WITH HANDEDNESS.

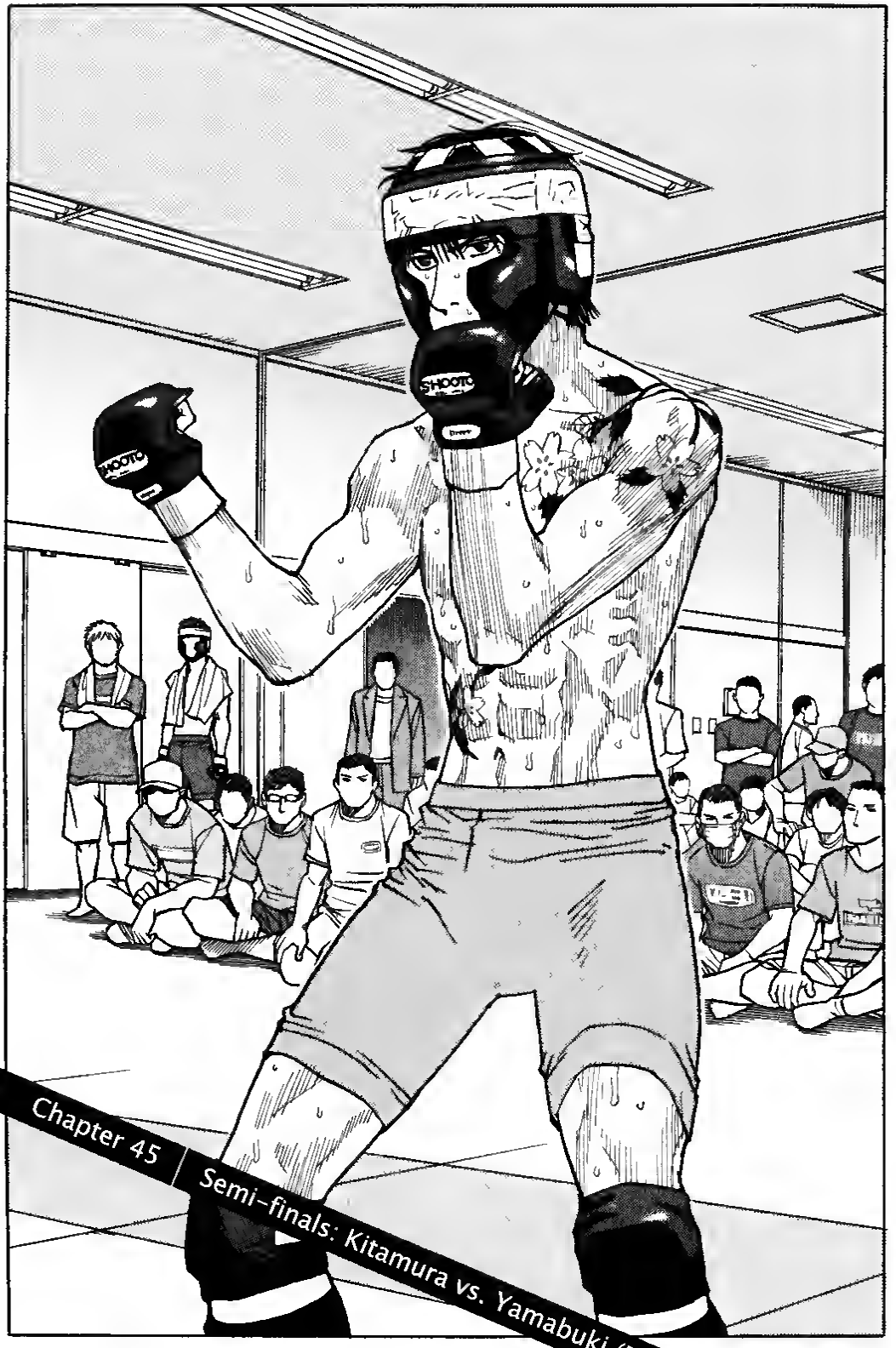

!

ドカ



SON-OF-A-BITCH!
HOW'D HE GET IN SO CLOSE JUST LIKE THAT?!

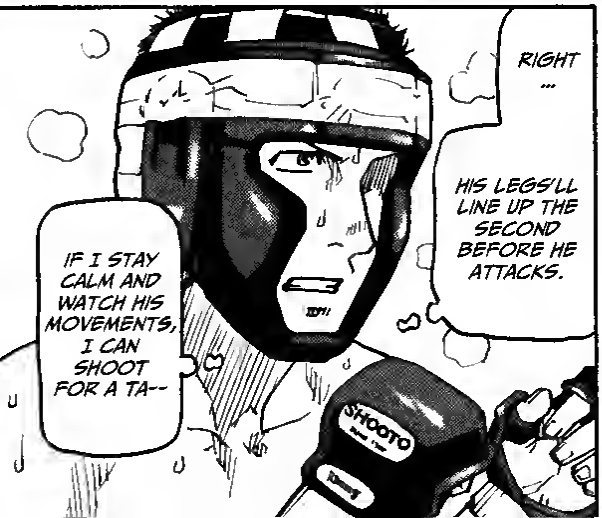
NOT GOOD ...
HE LANDED A REALLY GOOD KICK THERE!
UNGH!
...IS KARATE.
HE MAY MAKE USE OF MUAY THAI AND BOXING TECHNIQUES...
...BUT TAKASHI'S BASE...



Chapter 45 | Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 2)

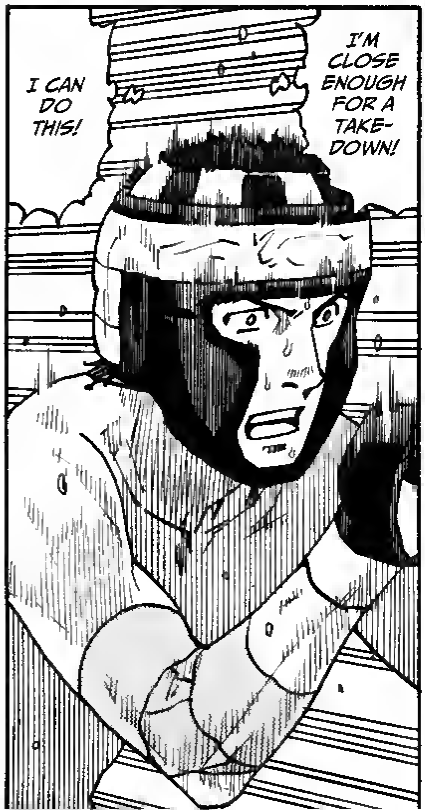
...HE'S JUST WALKING FOR-WARD...
...WHILE PUNCHING AND KICKING LEFT AND RIGHT?
BASI-CALLY...
SO...
ORIGINALLY KARATE WAS CONCEIVED AS ONE AGAINST MANY.
IS THERE TIME TO SWITCH POSITIONS WHEN YOUR OPPONENTS ARE COMING AT YOU FROM BOTH SIDES?

YOU DEFEND BOTH SIDES AND YOU DEFEAT BOTH SIDES.
"THERE ARE NO REVERSE PUNCHES IN TRUE KARATE."
THERE'S NO DISTINCTION.


RIGHT ...
HIS LEGS'LL LINE UP THE SECOND BEFORE HE ATTACKS.
IF I STAY CALM AND WATCH HIS MOVEMENTS, I CAN SHOOT FOR A TA--

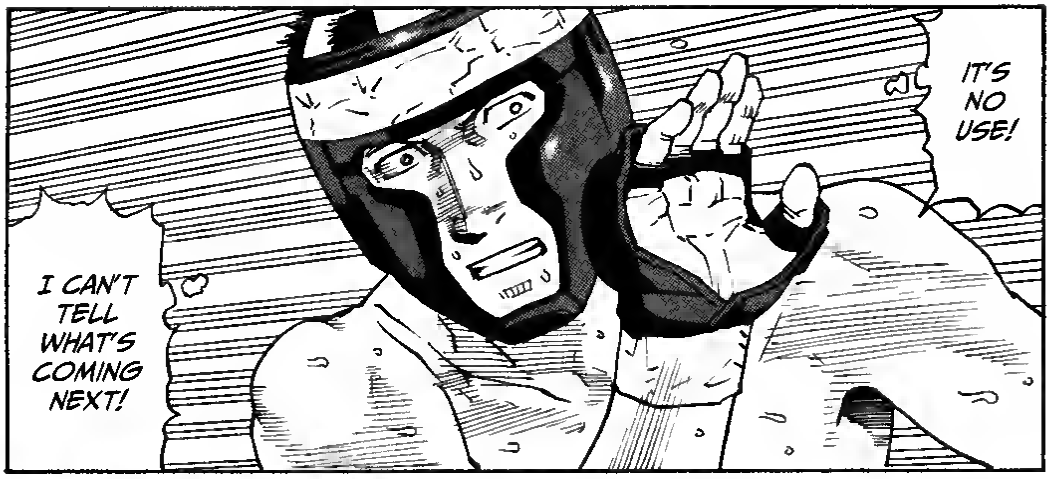
STAY CALM AND GO AROUND TO THE LEFT!
YUDAI! DON'T FALL BACK!

WHOA!

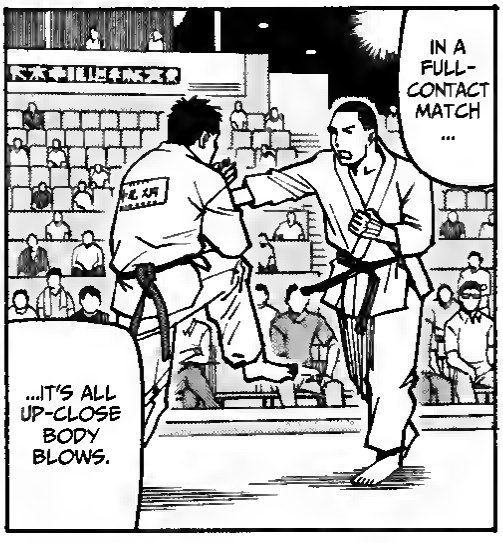

I CAN DO THIS!
I'M CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A TAKE-DOWN!

!

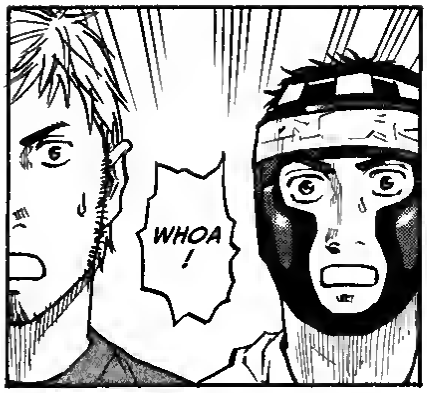
A KNEE ?!
WOOSH
スパ
WAH!

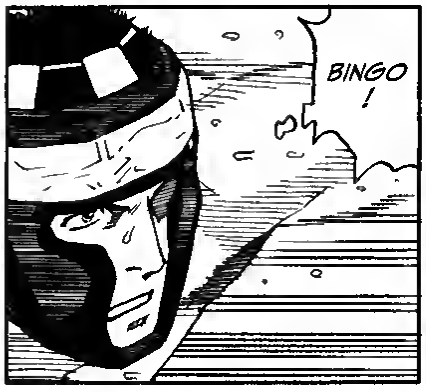


*KUMITE MEANS SPARRING, AND IS ONE OF THE THREE MAIN SECTIONS OF KARATE TRAINING, ALONG WITH KATA (MOVING PATTERNS) AND KIHON (BASIC TECHNIQUES)



ADVANCE WITH YOUR LEFT, YUDAI!
YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE HIM DOWN IF YOU WANT TO WIN!
GOING FROM A SANCHIN STANCE TO A BLOW LIKE THAT IS UNHEARD OF...
BUT WITH AMATEUR SHOOTO RULES...

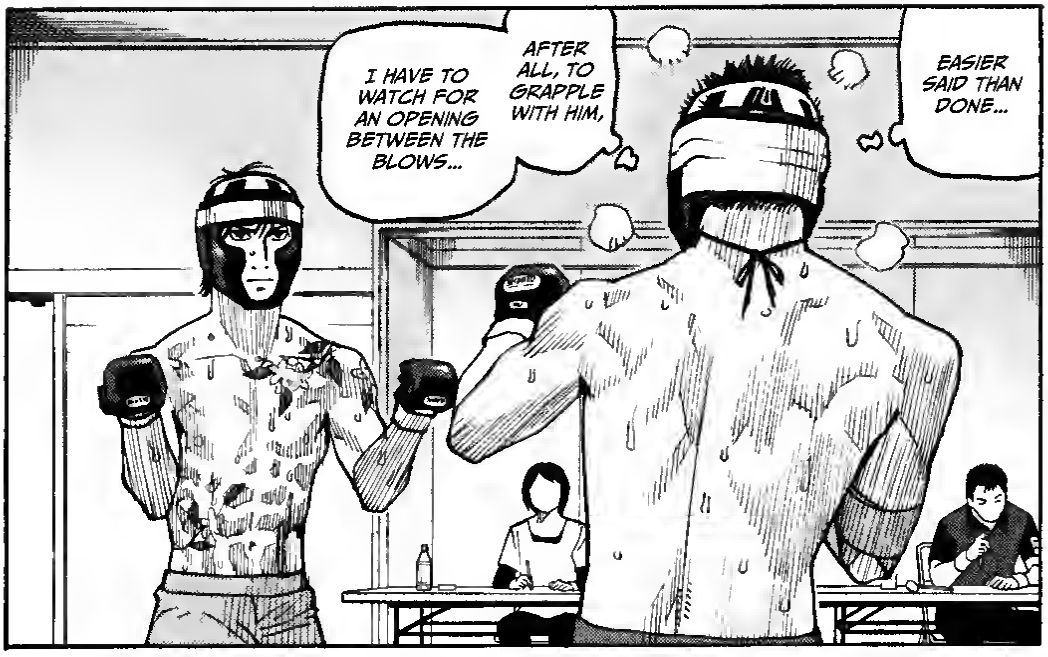

WHOA
!


BINGO
!

!

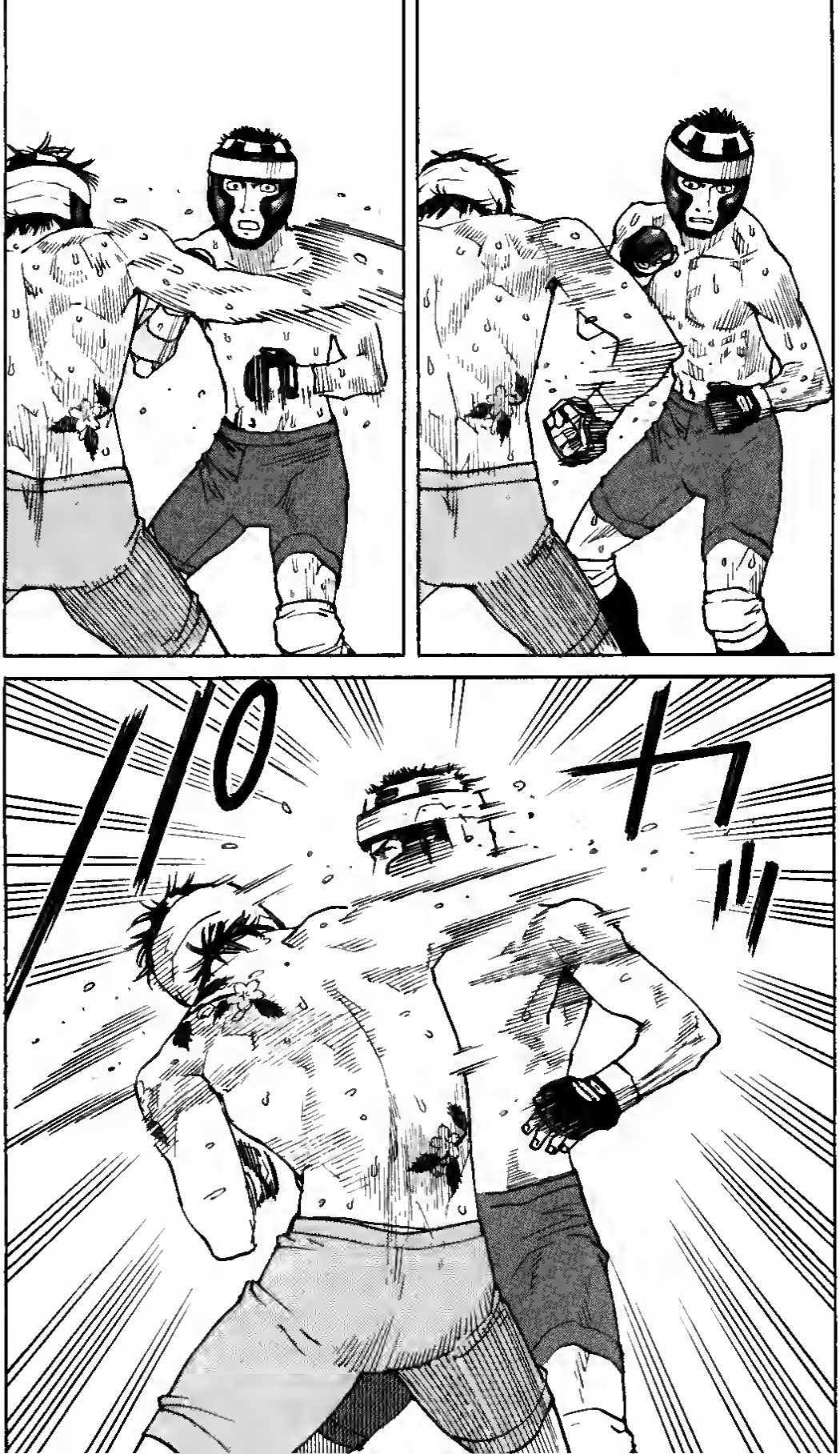
THIS GUY USES BOXING IN CLOSE QUARTERS ?!
AN UPPER-CUT FROM A DUCKING POSITION ?!
WHA ?!
YOU CAN'T WIN AN MMA FIGHT WITH KARATE ALONE.
BOXING, MUAY THAI...
...WRES-TLING, JIU-JITSU...
HE'S MASTERED ALL OF THOSE...

...AND YOU STILL TRY TO PUT HIM IN THE "KARATE" BOX.
PANT
PANT
DON'T LET THE BLOWS DISTRACT YOU!
YUDAI, GO FOR A TAKE-DOWN!
Pant
Pant
HE'S LET HIS OPPO-NENT SET THE PACE.
OH NO!

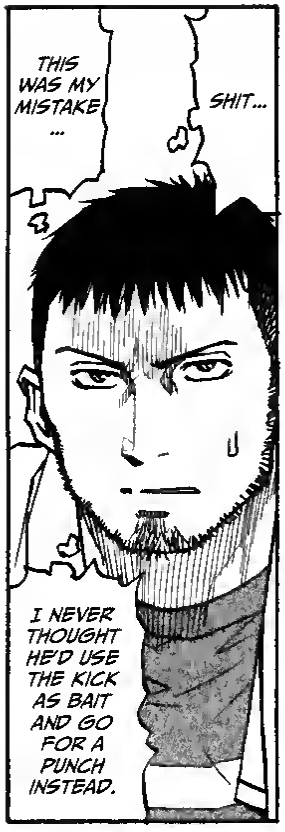

I HAVE TO WATCH FOR AN OPENING BETWEEN THE BLOWS...
AFTER ALL, TO GRAPPLE WITH HIM,
EASIER SAID THAN DONE...

...HE'S GONNA GO FOR A LEFT PUNCH.

WITH YAMABUKI DETERMINED TO KEEP THE FIGHT STANDING,
AND YUDAI UNABLE TO USE A STRAIGHT RIGHT, YAMABUKI KNOWS...


110
十
11

DOWN!
ONE!
...
A RIGHT HOOK ...?
TWO!


THIS WAS MY MISTAKE ...
SHIT...
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D USE THE KICK AS BAIT AND GO FOR A PUNCH INSTEAD.

THREE!

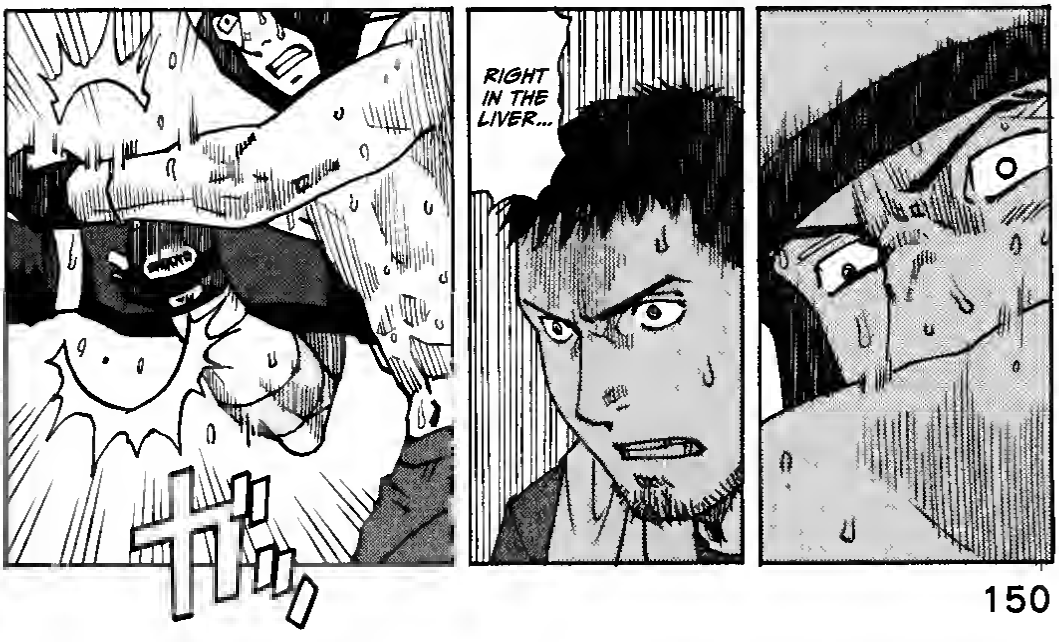
YUDAI! IT'S A KICK!
HE'S GONNA GO FOR A KICK NEXT!

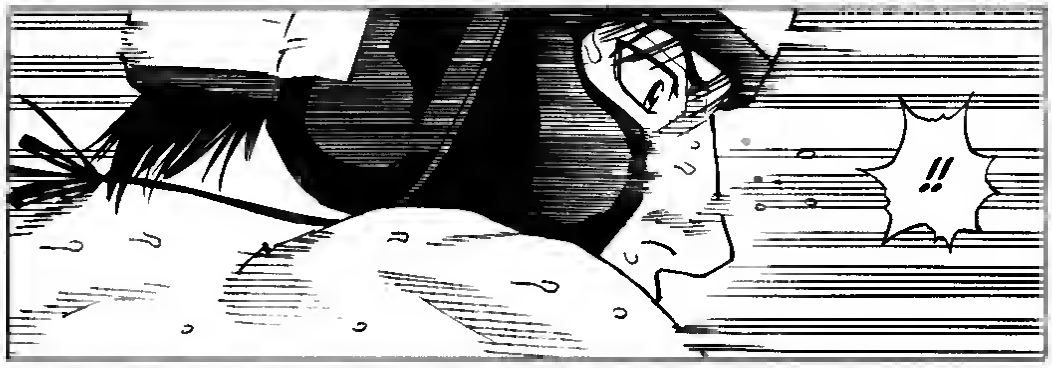
NO...
WHAT?
NOT THE RIGHT HOOK!

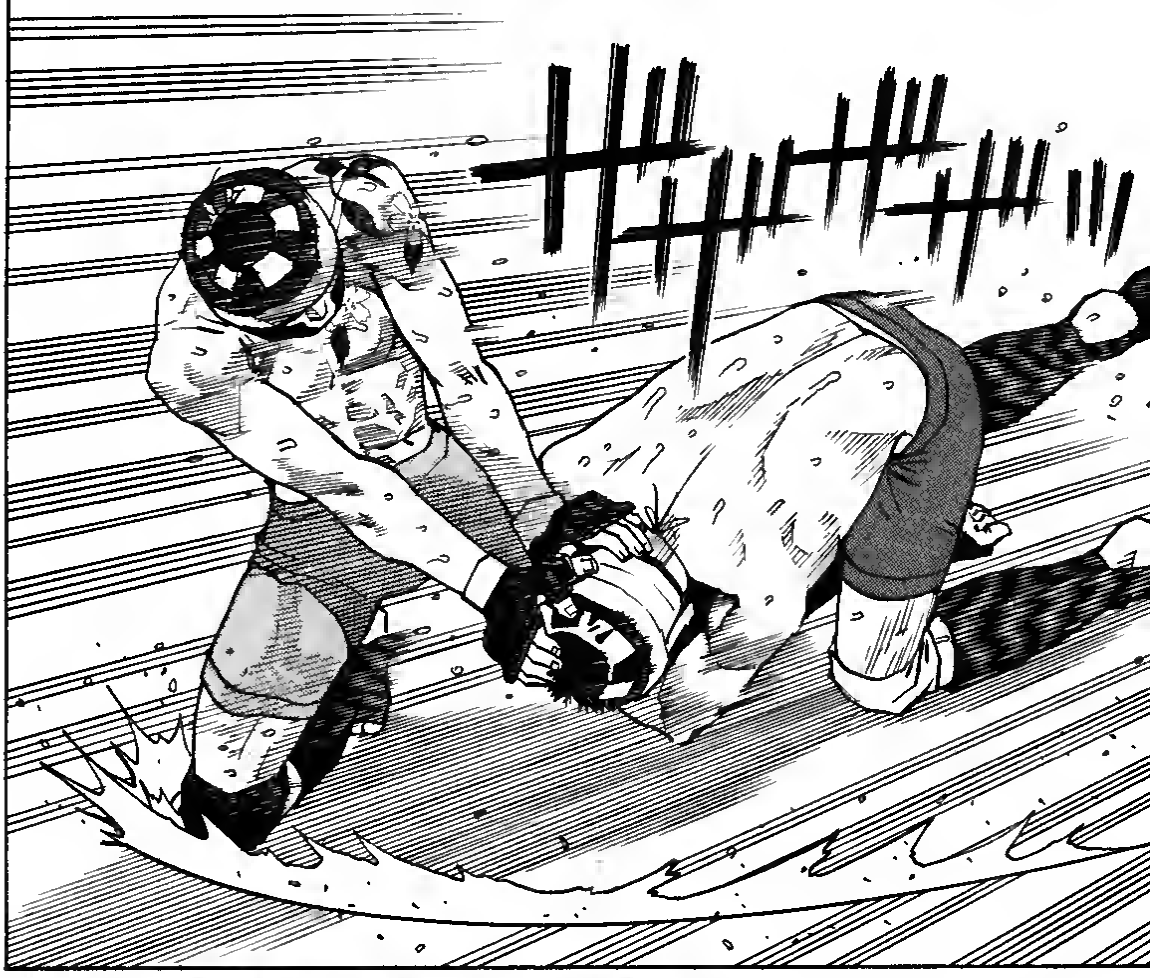
FIGHT!
OHO...
!
YOU WANT TO KICK MY RIGHT ARM...
YOU WANT TO KICK ME, DON'T YOU?
I KNOW...
I CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES...

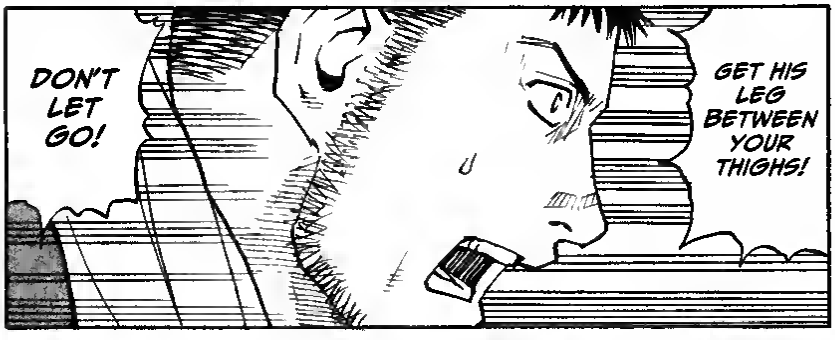
BUT IN THAT STANCE...
...HE CAN'T GO RIGHT INTO A MIDDLE OR HIGH KICK.
I KNOW TAKASHI WANTS...
...TO END THIS FIGHT WITH A KICK.
IF I FALL BACK, IN TWO OR THREE MOVES...
...HE'LL COME AT ME WITH A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
ヒュ
ッ
ッ

YUDAI ?
YOUR GUARD'S HIGH!


RIGHT IN THE LIVER...





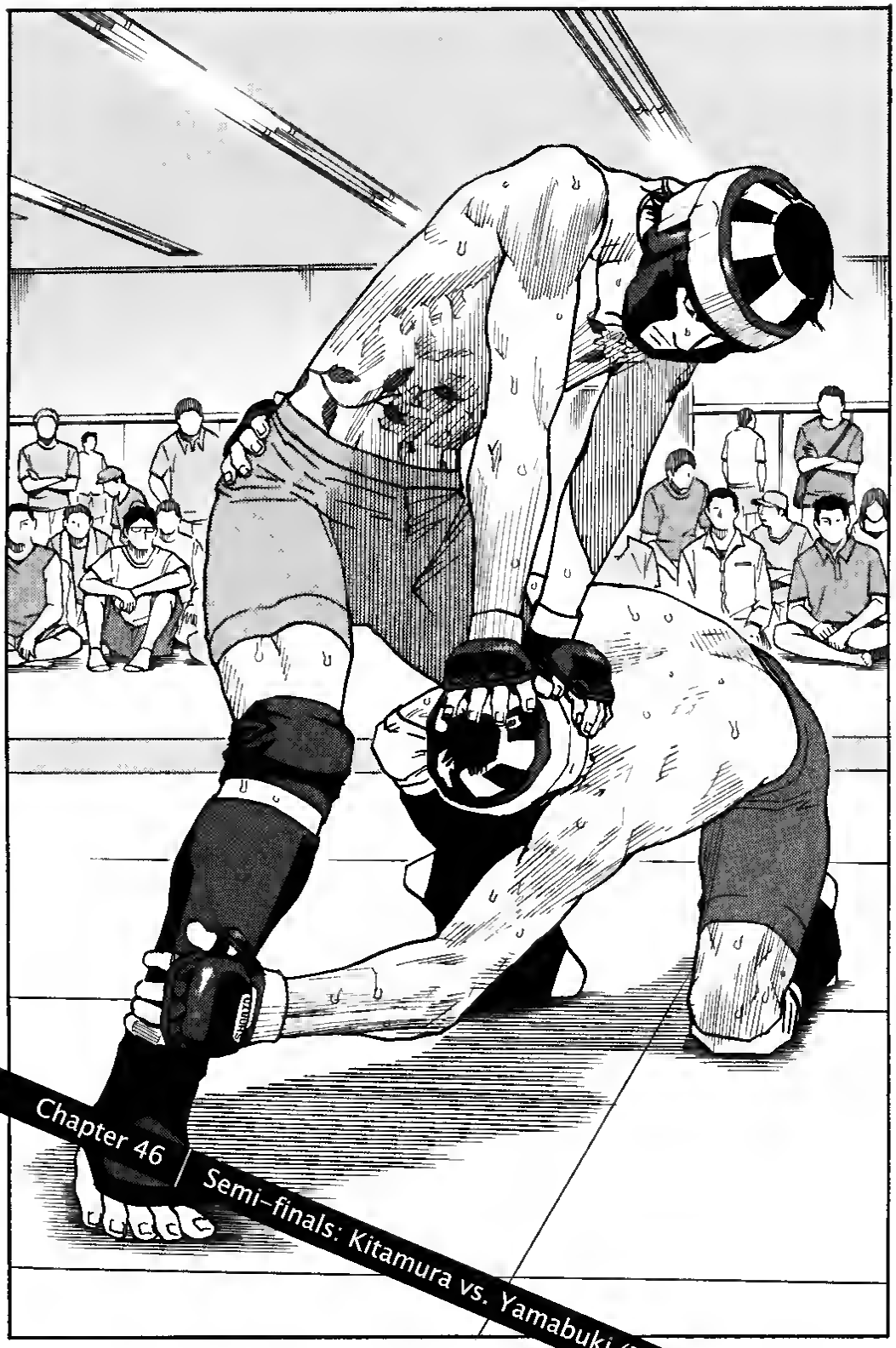

DON'T LET GO!
GET HIS LEG BETWEEN YOUR THIGHS!

HE GRABBED HIS LEG!

DON'T LET HIM PUT YOU ON YOUR BACK!
GET YOUR LEFT LEG OUT!

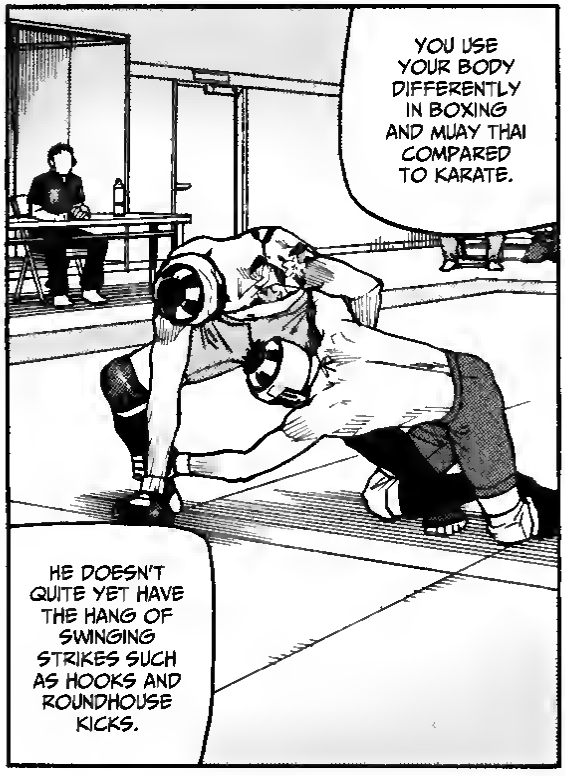
TAKASHI! DON'T GRAB HIM, PUSH HIM AWAY!
YUDAI! GET HIM TO THE GROUND!
NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU GO, YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!
I'VE GOT YOU NOW..!

YEAH...
IF HE CAN JUST GRAB HIS ARMS AND HOLD HIM DOWN...
BUT HE CAN'T LET HIS GUARD DOWN YET...
SO HE COULD GRAB HIS LEG...
HE TOOK THAT KICK TO THE LIVER ON PURPOSE...
...HE DID A REVERSAL AND CAPTURED MY BACK BEFORE I KNEW IT.
WHEN I FOUGHT TAKASHI...
THAT'S IT! YOU'VE GOT HIM, YUDAI!
ガッ



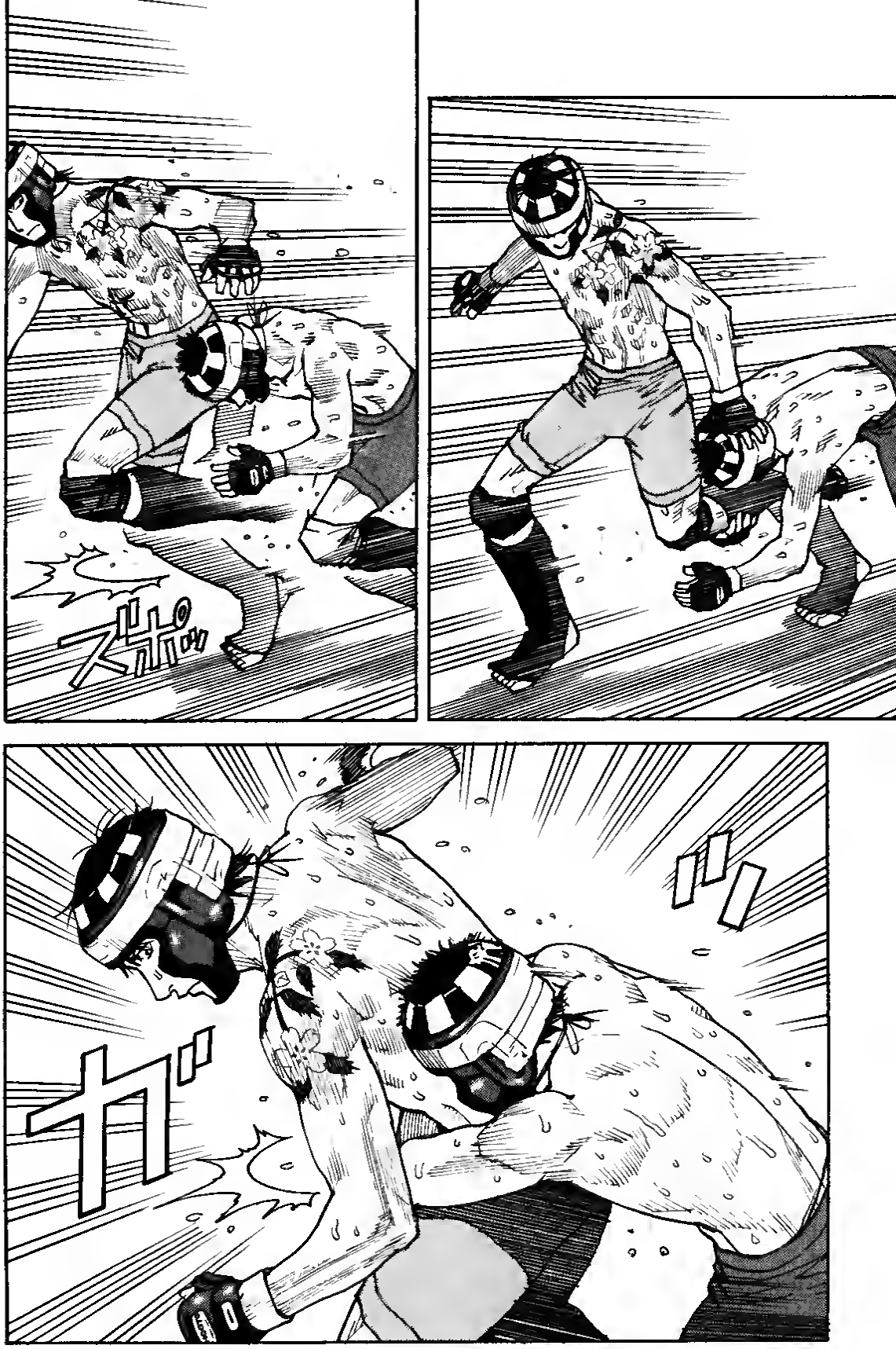
Chapter 46 | Semi-finals: Kitamura vs. Yamabuki (Part 3)

IF YOU DON'T COMPLETE THE TAKEDOWN, YOU WON'T GET ANY POINTS!
YUDAI! THIS IS IT!


YOU USE YOUR BODY DIFFERENTLY IN BOXING AND MUAY THAI COMPARED TO KARATE.
HE DOESN'T QUITE YET HAVE THE HANG OF SWINGING STRIKES SUCH AS HOOKS AND ROUNDHOUSE KICKS.

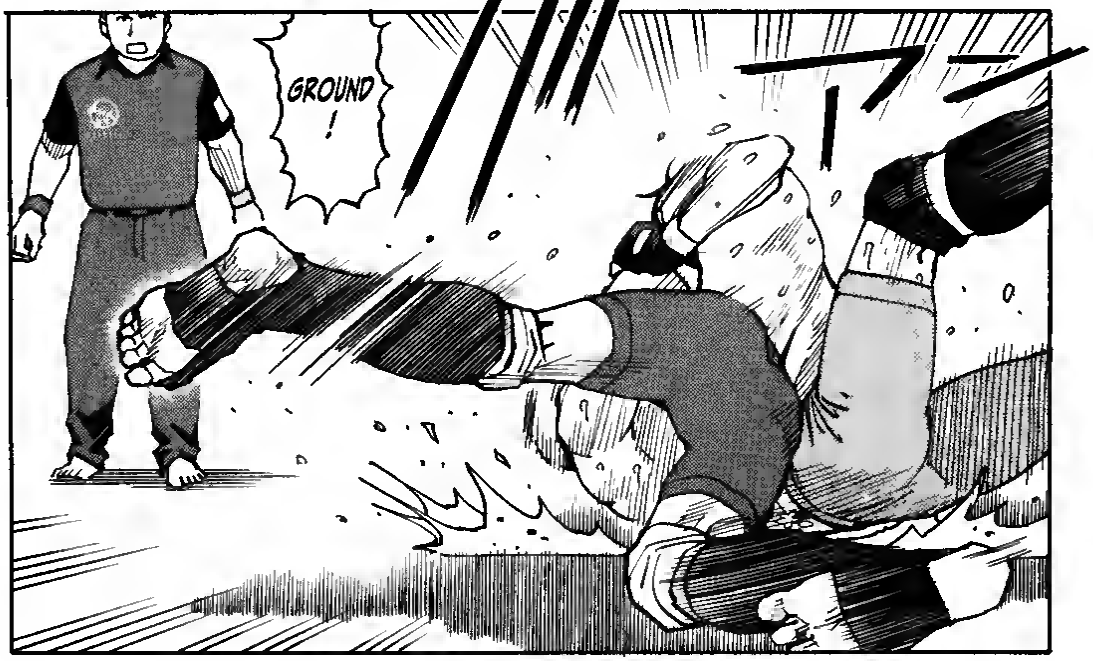
...HMPH.
TAKASHI'S KICK WAS PRETTY WIDE WHEN HE WENT FOR THE KO...
HIS TECHNIQUE STILL NEEDS SOME WORK.

DAMN!
BUT I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
HE'S BACK ON HIS FEET...!


ズサッ
ガ

TAKASHI! DON'T LET HIM TRIP YOU!
YUDAI GOT HIS BACK!
OH, WOW!
FIGHTER BRO
SQUEEE
I'VE GOT TO CLUTCH HIS ARM.
HE'S PROBABLY GONNA FORCE HIS ELBOW IN...
WELL, THEN...
SHIT! MY LEGS FEEL WEAK...

ガッ
ばっ
GOT HIM!
!
ガッ
ばっ

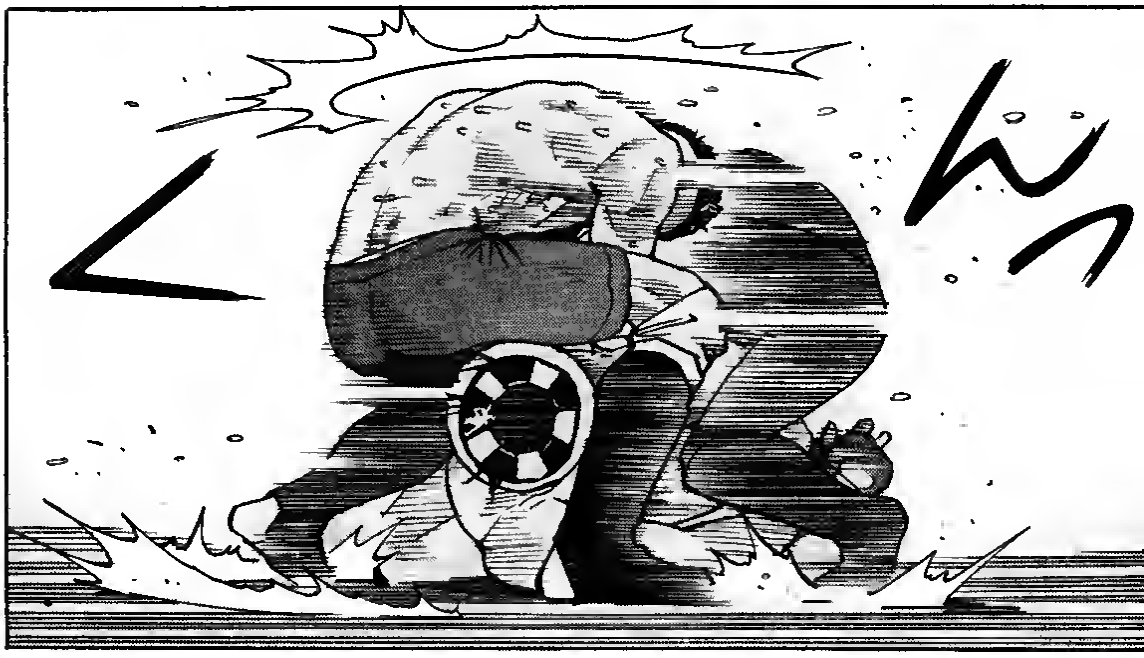

GROUND
!

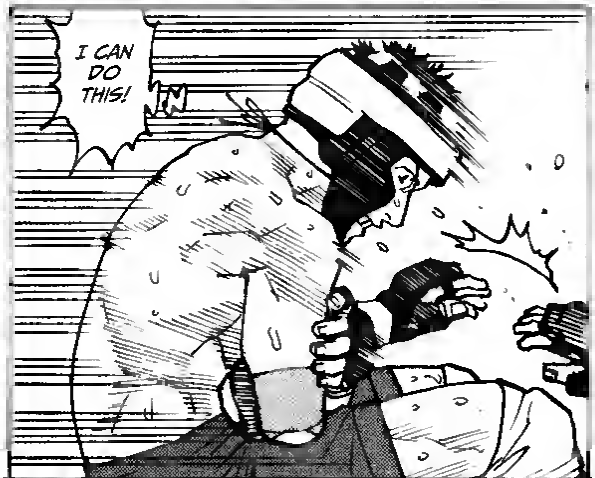
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
SIDE MOUNT!
YOU GOT THE POINTS!
HELL YEAH!
PIN HIM, YUDAI!
JUST BREATHING HURTS MY SIDES...
DAMN IT!
YOU'VE JUST GOTTA HOLD IT FOR TEN SECONDS!
PIN!

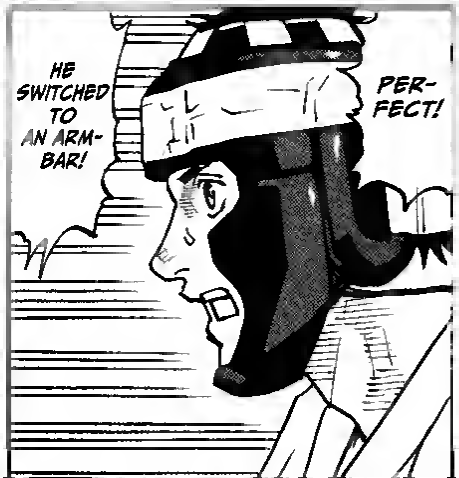
ACTION!
CLAP
THAT'S ANOTHER POINT, YUDAI!
Ten seconds!
HE'S GONNA GO FOR A REVERSAL WHEN I TRY AND TRANSITION TO FULL MOUNT!
BASTARD..!
SON-OF-A-BITCH!
TWINGE

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE!
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!

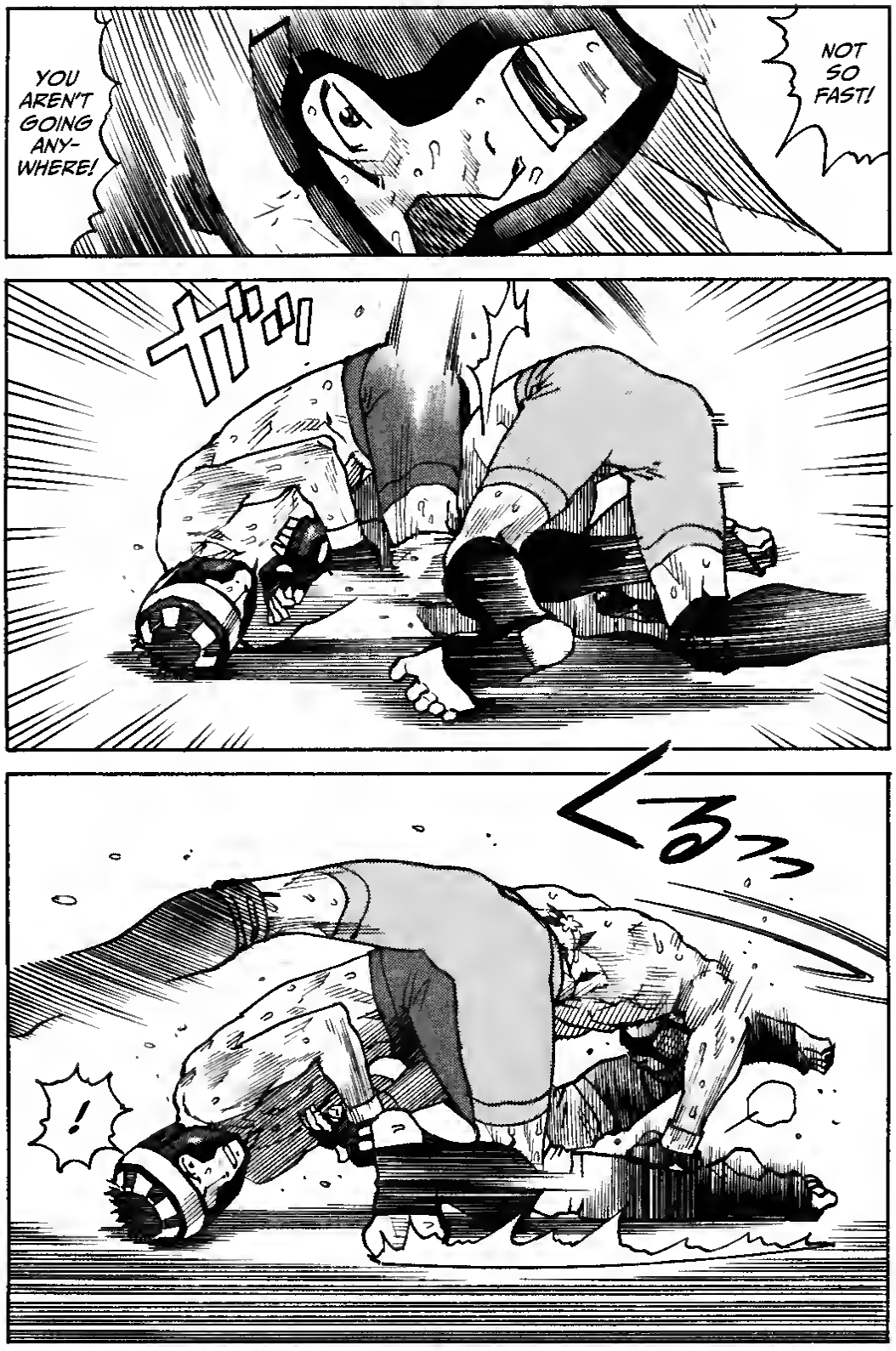
HE'S GONNA GET UP!
HE GOT AN ARM IN!




I CAN DO THIS!


HE SWITCHED TO AN ARM-BAR!
PER-FECT!

WHA ?!
THWAP!
くるっ
ばっ
ヒュッ


YOU AREN'T GOING ANY-WHERE!
NOT SO FAST!
ガッ!
!

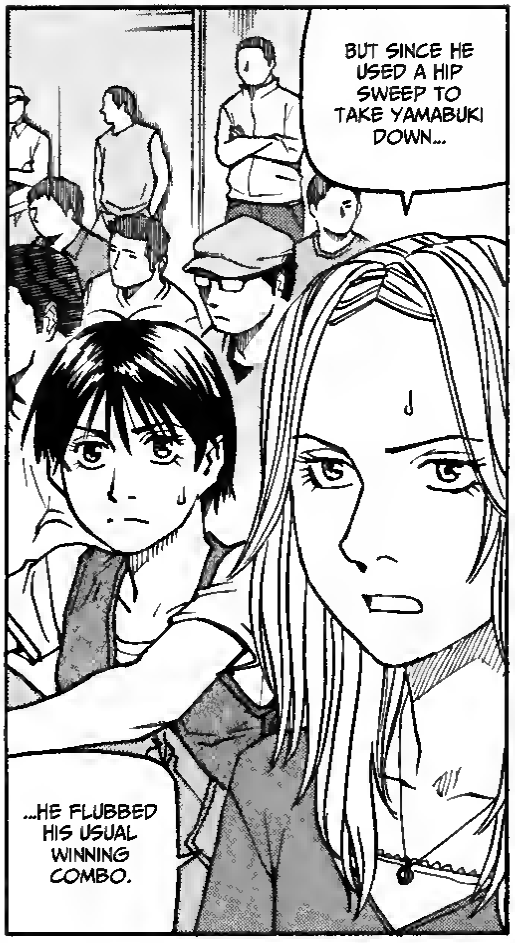
キュッ
ザザッ
ザッ

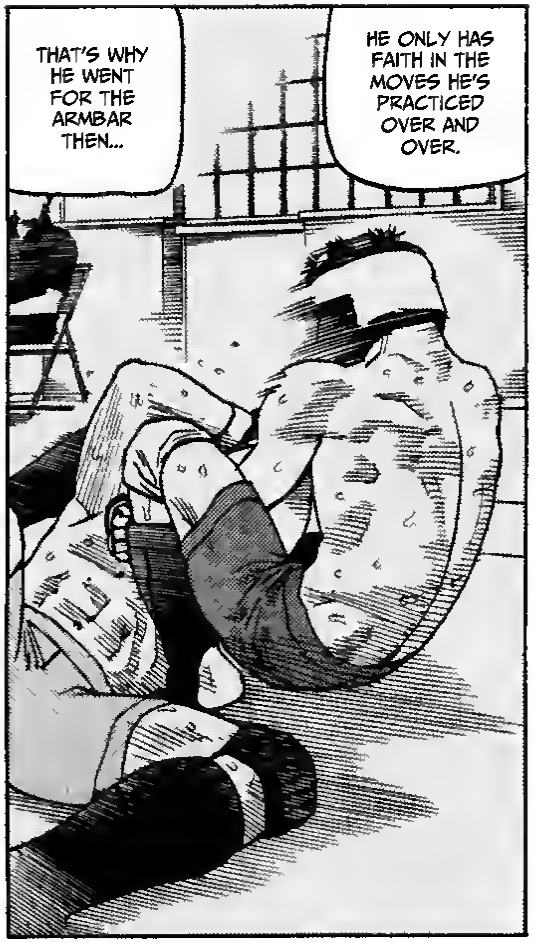
WSH
Ido
...
STAND UP!
BREAK!
I'M SURPRISED HE ESCAPED THAT ARMBAR...
WHOA!

TIME!
BOTH OF YOU ADJUST YOUR PROTECTIVE GEAR!
50 SECONDS LEFT!
YOU'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE!
YOU CAN DO THIS!
...LIKELY SCORED 7-10...
...IN YAMABUKI'S FAVOR.
BUT SINCE HE GOT STRUCK DOWN...
...BOTH STRIKING JUDGES...
FOR GRAPPLING, IT'S 6-0 WITH YUDAI IN THE LEAD...
WHAT'S THE SCORE, TAKE?
BUT THERE'S A CHANCE THE GRAPPLING JUDGE COULD HAVE GIVEN 6-10, IN WHICH CASE, YAMABUKI'S IN THE LEAD.
ALTOGETHER IT'S PROBABLY 20-20*...
SO THAT MEANS?

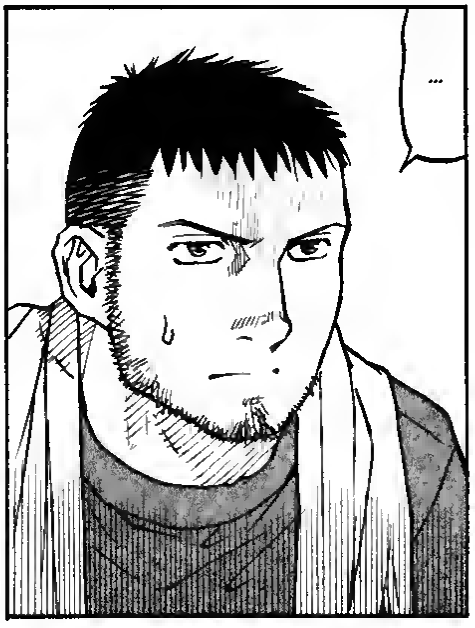
*BOTH STRIKING JUDGES' POINTS ADD UP TO 14-20, PLUS THE GRAPPLING JUDGE'S 6-0 SCORE, EQUALS 20-20

...HE'LL HAVE A GOOD LEAD.
IF YUDAI CAN AT LEAST GET ANOTHER TAKEDOWN...
EITHER WAY, THERE'RE STILL 50 SECONDS LEFT...
...WHY DIDN'T YUDAI GO FOR A NORTH-SOUTH-CHOKE INSTEAD OF AN ARMBAR? THAT WAY YAMABUKI WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN BACK UP.
SQUEEZ
WHEN HE HAD SIDE CONTROL...
...BUT HE'S NOT ONE TO ACT ON INSPIRATION.
YUDAI MAY BE SKILLFUL...


BUT SINCE HE USED A HIP SWEEP TO TAKE YAMABUKI DOWN...
...HE FLUBBED HIS USUAL WINNING COMBO.


THAT'S WHY HE WENT FOR THE ARMBAR THEN...
HE ONLY HAS FAITH IN THE MOVES HE'S PRACTICED OVER AND OVER.

TAKE HIM DOWN, YUDAI!
I have no lines...
YOU'VE STILL GOT A FEW SECONDS LEFT TO KNOCK HIM DOWN AND SUBMIT HIM!


...

YOU'RE STRONG ...
TAKASHI YAMA-BUKI...
YOU'RE REALLY FUCKING STRONG...
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO GET A HOLD OF THIS GUY?
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE THE AMATEUR SHOOTO WORLD BLOODY...
WHY ARE YOU DOING MMA ANYWAY?
BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO FROM HERE?

!
GUESS I COULD ASK MYSELF THE SAME QUES-TION...
FIGHT !

I DUNNO... I CAN'T TELL WITH HIS HEADGEAR ON.
...IS YUDAI SMILING?
...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE, BUT...
...ALL MARTIAL ARTISTS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR SIGNATURE MOVES.
YES?
MOMOKO.
SOMETIMES THAT BACK-FIRES ON THEM...
SO ALL THAT'S LEFT...
THE ARMBAR DIDN'T WORK...

DURING YUDAI'S JUDO DAYS...
I MEAN...
WAS HE THE TYPE TO BET IT ALL...
...ON A TRIED AND TRUE MOVE...
...EVEN KNOWING IT WOULDN'T WORK?

...BUT WITH ONLY 50 SECONDS LEFT...
IT'S ONLY RECENTLY HE'S MASTERED PUNCHES...
...
...I THINK HE MEANS TO GO FOR THE STRAIGHT RIGHT.